

Prime Minister appeals to the nation for support in 'winter of dislocation'

Launching what may be a pre-election session of Parliament yesterday, Mr Callaghan appealed for "every man and woman in the land" to observe pay restraint. In what was seen as a reference to the miners, he promised in the debate on the Queen's Speech not to let any group of workers secure advantages through their strength. In the Queen's Speech, which was cut from television and radio because of action by BBC staff, separate Bills on Scottish and Welsh devolution and on direct elections to the European Assembly were announced.

Pledge not to allow pay gains 'secured through strength'

Fred Emery
Political Editor
Mr Callaghan, launching perhaps his pre-election session of Parliament yesterday, appealed for "every man and woman in the land" for crucial support to pay restraint through what looked like being a difficult winter.
In an unmistakable reference to the miners, the Prime Minister promised in return not to let any group of workers secure advantages through their strength which others are ready and willing to forgo.
Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, later called on the Government and unions to "be more vocal in their condemnation" of such groups as the power workers.
Report, page 4.
Mr Callaghan's call to action through a winter of "inconvenience and dislocation" was the reality of government business outside Parliament. As for new legislation, the proposed programme, as outlined earlier by the Queen in her Speech from the Throne at the coronation state opening, strikes a note almost of detachment from the picture of a nation weathering the storm of recession.
It is concentrated in two Bills, to be published today, for devolution for Wales and Scotland (in what order is not yet known); and in the Bill, to be published on November 10, for direct elections to the European Assembly.
The other eye-catcher (some might talk of votes) is a Bill to help first-time home buyers with a deferred interest £500 loan, plus a possible bonus towards a mortgage deposit.
There are also twenty other possible Bills in the Queen's Speech, with Mr Callaghan offering more. But it all depends on time available. Studies of past experience in time of recession are no guide to the present.
One gift offered to the Post Office workers is a possible Bill to give them the right to strike, but Liberals, describing it as "restraint", will ensure that it remains government wishful thinking.
Liberal support, of course, remains the core of Mr Callaghan's survival. The Prime Minister several times teased his colleagues and the House with the notion that the election could be next autumn.
To backbenchers at a private meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party complaining of omissions in the Queen's Speech, the Prime Minister replied that they needed to avoid an overall pessimism.
"There may be other things in September and October," he said.
There was less innuendo from Mr Callaghan in the



The Queen wearing spectacles during her Speech from the Throne yesterday.

Callaghan welcome for TV and radio blackout of Speech

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster
Mr Callaghan yesterday warmly welcomed President Brezhnev's offer to suspend the Soviet Union's peaceful nuclear explosion programme as "a most significant development in Soviet policy".
The Prime Minister, speaking in the Commons at the start of the debate on the Queen's Speech, told MPs that this initiative should be taken as a signal to the West that the Soviet leadership was in earnest about the policy of détente.
He reminded the House that President Brezhnev, President Carter and himself had agreed that negotiations should begin last July to reach a comprehensive test ban treaty. The achievement of a total ban on all nuclear explosions was being held up because the Soviet Union genuinely advanced the view that peaceful explosions could be defined separately from other nuclear explosions.
But the Prime Minister was less than warm in his reception of Mrs Thatcher's bitter attack on the state of British defences. The Tory leader claimed that Britain's prestige could not be lower than it was in NATO at the present time.
Mr Callaghan snapped back that if every other NATO country spent the same proportion of their gross national product on defence as did Britain, NATO's troubles would have been over long ago.
Radio and television coverage of the Queen's Speech at the state opening of Parliament yesterday was taken off the air as a result of action by members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs in pursuit of a pay claim.
Neither independent television nor commercial radio could carry any transmissions from inside Parliament because both had arranged to take "feeds" from the BBC.
Last night the BBC National programme was blacked out and a film was shown instead. The Voice of the Nation was reduced to five minutes without film reports and was followed by 20 minutes of interlude films.

Shares again lose heavily as pound plunges

By Caroline Atkinson
Sterling plunged to \$1.81 yesterday—235 cents lower—in hectic trading on the foreign exchange market. At one point it was five cents down on the day.
Cuts fell in sympathy, closing £2 down at the long end after an initial drop of £2.75. Shares fell for the ninth consecutive day, with a drop of 6.2 in the FT index to close at 478.5.
Sterling made a slight recovery just before the close to finish with an effective rate index of 53.4. Wednesday's close on the effective-trading weighted index was 64.4.
The Bank of England seems to have gained well clear of the market until the rate had plummeted to \$1.7875. Some slight support at that level was then detected by some dealers.
In New York the pound lost 31 cents to close at \$1.7810. Signs of a revival of industrial unrest in Britain—with the miners refusing to accept a productivity deal—and widespread power cuts have led many overseas investors to think twice about holding pounds.
The market was shaken by the sudden plunge in the pound's exchange rate, and as no floor was provided by the Bank, at least at first, there was a snowballing effect.
Sterling began its nosedive in the morning when the dollar began to pick up. Herr Haus Apel, the German Finance Minister, has said that the American currency was undervalued at its present rate, and the market immediately reacted by buying dollars.
Mr Fred Bergsten, United States Assistant Treasury Secretary, later repeated Herr Apel's comments. The dollar closed very slightly down on the day at DM2.246, and 247.75 yen.
Large selling orders for pounds first came from Switzerland and Germany. When the

Kremlin bars Spanish party leader's speech

Moscow, Nov 3.—Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist Party leader, said tonight that he had been barred from speaking at a Kremlin rally today, apparently because Soviet officials considered his planned address too militantly Eurocommunist.
Señor Carrillo, one of the arch-exponents of the moderate brand of communism espoused by several Western parties, said he had been told originally that he could make a speech to the meeting marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.
But after he handed in a copy of his text for translation soon after arriving in Moscow last night, he was told he would not be called to the rostrum, he said, although representatives of many less influential parties did speak to the two-day rally.
"Not only was I not given the opportunity to speak but also I have not been given any reason for this," he told reporters. "But I suppose you can imagine why it was."
The affair appeared likely to exacerbate the already strained relations between the Spanish and Soviet parties. Another member of Señor Carrillo's delegation—the veteran poet Pablo Neruda—protested by calling off a reading of his works in Moscow today.
The incident came after President Leonid Brezhnev yesterday delivered the most authoritative, if implicit, critique of Eurocommunism ever pronounced by a Kremlin leader from a public tribune.
While Señor Carrillo sat in the back row of the presidential box at the meeting today, thunderous receptions were given to pro-Moscow party leaders who were in effect denouncing the politics he espouses.
Speaking to reporters afterwards, Señor Carrillo said his speech had been very similar to one delivered yesterday by the Italian party leader, Signor Enrico Berlinguer, another Eurocommunist.
Signor Berlinguer, and today Mr Gordon McLennan of Britain were given a cool reception for addresses expounding their strongly distinctive views of what a socialist society should be and their insistence on a multi-party system.—
Reuter.
Leading article, page 15

Mr Benn to seek Cabinet approval for £2-a-week power dispute peace formula

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is to put to his Cabinet colleagues proposals for a solution of the power workers' unofficial action agreed yesterday by the unions and the Electricity Council.
The peace formula gives power station workers rises of up to £2 a week to recompense them for increased travelling costs incurred by the shift of generating stations from towns to rural sites. An employers' representative said last night: "We are hopeful they will call off the action that is hitting the public and many of their own colleagues."
Government approval is needed before the travel allowances can be paid. But if the payments are found to be consistent with income policy they may be in the next wage envelope.
Other issues behind the action that has caused widespread power cuts and voltage reductions—shift pay allowances and concessionary fuel allowances on the lines of miners' free coal—were not touched on at yesterday's joint talks.
Union leaders agree that they have part of the basic terms and conditions of the country's 96,000 power workers, and

Mr Vorster agrees to scrap passbooks

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Nov 3
Blacks in South Africa were promised today that their hated passbooks, which prescribe where they may live and work, are to be scrapped. A statement issued after a meeting in Pretoria between Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, and black homeland leaders said it had been agreed the passbooks should be replaced by travel identity documents next year.
The new documents will be issued by the Bantustan governments which, in effect, means that the system of separate development will be reinforced.
None the less, it is likely to come under fierce attack from conservative whites, particularly the Herstigte Nasionale Party, which will see the move as a further erosion of white domination.
Chief Gatsba Buthelezi, the leader of four million Zulus, refused to attend the talks in Pretoria. He had described previous discussions with Mr Vorster on the issue as "a farce".
It is not yet clear whether police will be empowered to arrest any African unable to produce his new identity document on demand. At present thousands of Africans are jailed every year for the technical offence of not having their passes on them.
Dr Cedric Phahudi, the Lebowa homeland leader, said the ending of the passbook system meant the removal of one of the major "irritations" of the apartheid system.
It was also agreed that Africans employed in urban areas may now have their families living with them. It is not known, however, if this applies to the thousands of African women domestics who work and live as single women in white suburbs.
Tories "would give no respite to S Africa", page 9

Catholics change rules for mixed marriages

New rules on marriages between Roman Catholics and members of other churches have been issued. The Catholic partner will still sign a document expressing willingness to try to ensure that children of the marriage are raised as Catholics but it will be an undertaking rather than a promise and should not be pressed to the point of jeopardising the marriage. The regulations, drawn up by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales, are designed to meet objections from non-Roman Catholic churches and to tailor general Catholic rules to local conditions.
Page 2

France-Quebec link strengthened

President Giscard d'Estaing announced in Paris that France and Quebec are to hold regular meetings at prime ministerial level to strengthen their links. In a speech during a luncheon in honour of Mr René Lévesque, the visiting Premier of Quebec, the President said that France would not interfere in the Canadian political debate, but Quebec could count on French support "all along the route you decide to follow".
Page 8

UN appeal to curb hijacking

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved an appeal to all the nations of the world to cooperate in ending hijackings. It adopted a resolution asking for a global effort to increase participation in three existing anti-hijacking treaties and improve airport and airline security.
Page 10

Demonstration at Heath rally

Two National Front members interrupted a Conservative rally at Lambeth Town Hall, London, last night and shouted "traitor" at the guest speaker, Mr Edward Heath. About fifty members of the Front demonstrated outside the meeting.
Page 7

PO board to get worker-directors

Sir William Barlow, new chairman of the Post Office, has pledged to improve the corporation's performance and to lead an attack on declining standards with the help of a new board which will include worker-directors.
Page 19

Leader page 15
Letters: On the power cuts, from Professor G. P. C. Butler and others; Charges against Mr Helms, from Lord George-Brown; Hoaxing Turner's paintings, from Lord Balfour.
Leading articles: The Queen's Speech; Moscow and Eurocommunism; Handouts for home buyers.
Features, pages 14 and 17: David Lane looks at racial discrimination and how it affects the British; Denis Farr on saving the Bellin; for Britain; Andrew Tarnowski on the Argentine navy.
Arts, page 13: David Robinson on the London Film Festival; new films in London; William Maclure on Eurypatie (Coliseum); Irving Wardle on Filumena (Lyric Theatre); Stanley Sadleir on *Acta and Galatea* (Sadler's Wells).
Sport, pages 11 and 12: Football: How clubs are coping with power cuts; Norman Fox reviews the European scene.
Teens: Victories for Christiani Everet and Billie Jean King at Palm Springs; Raging: Prospects for Cheltenham and Doncaster meetings; Motor racing: Alan Jones joins Williams team.
Business News, pages 18-24: Stock markets: 6-11s followed sterling down and the FT index closed another 6.2 off at 478.8. Financial Editor: Parameters for sterling: Barclays closes a clearing for its merchant bank; Hoover meets currency pressure; IMF offer subscribers.
Business features: Kenneth Owen on an expanding role for the laser beam.

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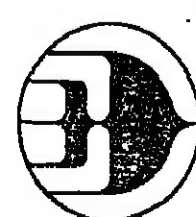
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HOME NEWS

Burden of running home loan cash boost scheme will fall on the building societies

By Margaret Stone

Help for first-time buyers is one of the centrepieces of the Government's intended programme of social legislation. The Bill proposing a cash boost and loan scheme for new borrowers is the outcome of the Housing Finance Review, which took a long time to reach publication at the end of June.

The Housing Finance Green Paper produced little in the way of resolving the country's housing difficulties. The most radical suggestions were the two forms of assistance it recommended for first-time buyers.

One was that the Government would pay a bonus, broadly equivalent to tax at the basic rate on the aggregate of interest on up to £1,000. The second proposal was that loans of £500 would be made to first-time buyers who had saved £500 before buying their homes. The loan would be interest-free for the first five years.

The proposals were circulated between the three main bodies that would be involved in the operation of the schemes (the local authorities, clearing banks and building societies) for them to reach a conclusion by November 1. In the event the issues have proved complicated, that the deadline for completing arrangements has

been put back to the beginning of December.

The discussions between the three groups and the Department of the Environment have not been making much progress for two reasons. The original proposals were seen as being administratively cumbersome and the benefits too unrealistic to make the effort worthwhile.

However, after protracted discussions some of the difficulties are being removed. It seems almost certain that the bonus for people who save at least £1,000 will be increased and that the time interval for savings to be held before a matching government loan can be acquired is likely to be shortened.

Those two improvements, it is felt, will make the scheme more attractive for the building societies to operate, and for young couples. The main administrative burden of the proposals will probably fall on the building societies.

The administrative burden has still not been totally overcome. Nor least of the difficulties is how to measure how long people have been saving. It seems likely that the building societies will be the channel through which the Government will make the loan, but they will be required to direct the borrowers.

That is the kind of technical point that makes all the difference between running the scheme smoothly and efficiently and running it at much greater expense. The building societies will, after the five-year period of grace, be responsible for repaying the loan and interest to the Government.

It was calculated in July that the two proposals combined would cost between £40m and £50m.

It is difficult to predict how many young couples will take advantage of the scheme. The savings period being built into both proposals may be a commitment that some may not be able to keep.

If house prices begin to rise rapidly it may not be worth while to wait a couple of years to qualify for the £500 loan. However, the fact that it can be used for other expenses such as meeting legal fees or buying the mortgage or the deposit makes it a welcome source of funds for many.

The Government's previous attempt to ease the lot of the first-time buyer with a low-start mortgage scheme was a dismal failure. Interest payment was deferred in the early years of the mortgage and the capital increased. It was designed during the boom when the ratio between incomes and house prices was nearly one to four.

New power on doctors' registration sought

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association will press for improved methods of registration of overseas doctors to be included in the Bill to restructure the General Medical Council.

But the Bill is expected to be non-controversial and concentrate on making the GMC more representative by increasing the size of the council to 98 with a majority of elected members, on the lines of the Mersey Medical Committee report into the functions and constitution of the council, published in 1975.

The Bill is also expected to give the council powers to control the registration of doctors unfit to practice on health grounds.

The Mersey committee concluded that the GMC's responsibility should extend beyond professional conduct to include the mental or physical health of doctors. The committee thought it unwise to compel doctors legally to report the ill health of colleagues but thought that in certain cases it might be appropriate for the GMC to proceed against a doctor who took no action to protect the public from a sick colleague.

The committee suggested that a health committee should be established with powers to suspend a doctor's registration or impose conditional registration.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent arriving for the state opening of Parliament yesterday. Parliamentary report, page 6.

Threat to Labour unity over Europe poll

By Michael Hatfield

The Prime Minister was given a warning last night of a "potential explosion" involving the Government and the Labour Party, over direct elections to the European Parliament, in a speech by Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party.

Mr Hayward insisted that the new Bill must ensure the conditions are met for the party conference this year, but Mr Callaghan firmly stated in the Commons yesterday that the Bill would be substantially the same as that introduced in the last session. He recognized that that was likely "to give some difficulties inside the party."

According to Mr Hayward, who was speaking at Kettering, a joint meeting between the Cabinet and the party's national executive committee on November 28 "will thrash out the third and other Common Market problems."

The meeting, however, may well have little influence because the Bill is to be published next Thursday, and it is not expected to include all the demands made at the party conference.

As outlined by Mr Hayward last night, they are: Clause 1 of the Bill preventing changes in the powers of the European Assembly; the need to fight on a platform of radical change within the EEC; the desirability of holding the EEC elections on the same day as the British general election; Labour candidates should be selected before each election using normal constituency machinery, and be bound by party policy and accountable to the party.

The main disagreement will be over the timing of direct elections, for Mr Callaghan is unlikely to accept the notion of double polling on the same day.

Mr Hayward said: "If these conditions are not met we face confusion and division on an unprecedented scale, and the splits would not easily be healed. We have got some hard and fast thinking to do on the question of how to implement these vital conditions in a way that will maintain our unity."

Fishing pact welcomed

The fishing industry welcomed the reference to the Government's commitment to secure better conditions, meeting the needs of the industry, conserving fish stocks and ensuring adequate supplies to the consumer.

The British Fishing Federation, which represents most trawler owners, said: "All fishermen will find it reassuring. The numerous disappointments of the past have made them wary of any Government's rash commitment to their interests."

Steel faith in Labour pay stand

By Our Political Editor

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last night that for the moment he would not wish to doubt the Government's determination to stand firm against policy-breaking wage claims. The prevention of a wages explosion remained the crucial yardstick for continuation of the Liberal-Labour agreement. The question was whether public opinion would make itself felt against the small minority who wish to press their selfish demands.

Mr Steel, speaking at a party rally in London, said he expected the Government and the unions to be more vocal in condemning the power workers. "There have been signs of similar irresponsibility among aviation workers, car workers and today television employees, and no doubt there will be among a minority of the public. The public mood is, I believe, one that will back the Government in taking a firm stand."

He described the parliamentary arrangement as "an agreement of influence, it is not a coalition." Pointing to the recent Gallup Poll majority favouring the pact, he said: "The people of Britain can now see that there is a third way better way open to them at the next election."

"The middle ground of politics can at last assert itself. There is no need to vote Labour and be saddled with a Labour majority. There is no need to lurch to the other extreme of a Thatcher-Joseph Tory government. Nor do we need simply to sigh and dream dreams of a Liberal government."

The Liberals had signalled the end of the politics of confrontation. At the next election they would appeal for enlarged Liberal strength in the House "so that the next government, Labour or Tory, has to be even more mindful of Liberal views and so govern with the backing of the majority."

Liberals pushing for official information Bill

By George Clark

Liberal Party pressure for an official information Bill that would extend civil liberties by removing the legal ban on the disclosure of government Cabinet documents and Whitehall is expected to be increased.

Mr Steel and his Liberal colleagues were disappointed by the phrasing of the Queen's Speech, whereas other plans were preferred to the words "legislation will be introduced" or "legislation will be brought before you", the message on government transparency will be brought forward for the reform of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911.

That is the formula used to introduce the White Paper, but a Bill will be produced. The Liberals believe that the arguments in favour of a relaxation of the law that

imposes criminal penalties on journalists and others who reveal "official information" are conclusive, and action is urgently needed.

Mr Steel said last night: "We shall look for an extension of civil liberties through the reform of section 2 of the 1911 Official Secrets Act on the lines recommended in the report of our Liberal colleague, Lord Franks."

The Franks committee reported as long ago as 1972, recommending drastic changes in the classification of official information. They would involve the complete re-drafting of section 2 of the 1911 Act, which forbids unauthorised disclosure of government information of any kind.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, announced on November 22, 1976, that the Government had concluded that section 2 should be replaced with an official information Act on the broad lines recommended by the

Franks committee. But he indicated that the Government would be prepared to go further than Franks. Among the Government's conclusions was that a criminal sanction was not justified in the economic sphere or in relation to the disclosure of Cabinet and Cabinet committee documents unless they fell into the limited number of protected categories.

Since then, there have been protracted discussions between ministers and the Civil Service about the categories of information, mostly concerned with defence and international relations, and not so much with "Budget secrets", which still need to be the subject of criminal sanctions if anyone makes a disclosure.

Mr Rees has said the category that would remain protected would be defence policy and strategy, and of international relations where unauthorised disclosure would be prejudicial to British in-

terests, to relations with a foreign government, or to the safety of British citizens.

These areas have been difficult to define. Mr Callaghan has been in the chair at the ministerial meetings held to discuss the legislation, and the fact that the Government is now clearly indicating that a White Paper must precede the Bill shows how difficult classification has become.

There is understandable anxiety among Civil Servants that the new rules governing disclosure will be drawn so vaguely that they will be at even greater risk than now of being taken to court along with the journalists and others with whom they may communicate.

Many Labour and Liberal MPs are demanding that criminal penalties should be reserved for unauthorised disclosure of official information where it involves a threat to national security or to individual property.

Backing for low-cost transport

By Michael Bailey

New support for minibuses, postbuses and other forms of low-cost community public transport will be the main feature of transport legislation in the new session. Local authorities will be required to give such schemes a role in their forward transport planning, and the traffic commissioners will be required not to impede them.

A notable omission will be the controversial idea put forward in the transport White Paper in June to hand over responsibility for loss-making rail services to local authorities. It has been strongly opposed by rail management and unions as "balkanisation of the railway network", and by local authorities who see themselves landed either with the cost of loss-making services or the odium of closing them.

There will be measures to put the National Freight Corporation on a sound financial footing, and to establish industrial improvement areas, along broadly the same lines as housing improvement areas; and in some cases to provide initial rent-free periods and to contribute to the cost of site preparation.

Incentives for urban industries

By Our Planning Reporter

The commitment to provide further assistance to inner-urban areas may be assumed to refer to industrial incentives. The Government already has wide powers to control housing expenditure allocations and to vary the rate-support grant, and last month it announced an extension of its special aid programme to selected towns and cities.

What many urban authorities have been pleading for are powers to offer special incentives to companies to establish factories in decaying districts. The Government's response was contained in a White Paper published last June, which is likely to provide the framework for legislation.

Among its recommendations were that councils should be empowered to make loans of up to 50 per cent for land purchases, new factories and improving existing industrial premises to establish industrial improvement areas, along broadly the same lines as housing improvement areas; and in some cases to provide initial rent-free periods and to contribute to the cost of site preparation.

Mr Callaghan refuses to be drawn on devolution timing

Continued from page 1

Scotland devolution and European elections Bills. There is to be a free vote on the method of electing MPs to Europe, whether by the regional list type of proportional representation or by the traditional "first past the post" system. All the other votes are to be subject to a three-line whip on the floor of the House.

Mrs Thatcher predicted that there was little chance of getting through a Bill allowing for European elections next year. Mr Callaghan noted her ally's belief that only if the House approved the regional list, as the Government wished, could elections come in 1978.

A "first past the post" system, requiring delimitation of constituencies, would mean no election before 1979.

On devolution, Mr Callaghan would not be drawn on timing.

He was scathing over the Conservatives' reluctance to do anything except "talk and talk and talk". And that was the reason the Bill was not being introduced.

But his most explosive answer came to Mr Tom Dwyer, of the Labour side. Mr Dwyer asked whether he, and the other Labour MPs, would be able to vote in matters in their own constituencies? Mr Callaghan retorted that if he "does not vote for the Bill he will not be able to vote for anything much else, I can tell you."

Mr Richard Watkinson, Liberal MP for Colne Valley, took that to be draconian discipline. But more likely Mr Callaghan meant that Mr Dwyer's Scottish constituency would have done with him if he persisted in opposing devolution.

Noise and piracy plans will push up fares, airlines say

By Arthur Reed

Air fares are bound to rise as a result of the measures outlined in the Queen's Speech to change the system of payment for security against air piracy and for taxing noisy aircraft.

Both schemes will cost the airlines more to operate. Opinion in the industry last night was that the extra charges would be added to passenger and cargo tariffs.

The change in charging for security measures at airports was foreshadowed by the Department of Trade and Industry when it was estimated that a levy of 80p on each arriving passenger would be necessary.

The Government pays £15m a year for security vetting at airports. That figure is expected to rise to £18m by April 1, 1978.

The new plan, to be included in an amendment to the Civil Aviation Act, will make airport authorities liable for paying for security vetting at airports. The bill to the airlines.

The amendment of the aviation Acts covering noise will empower airport authorities to penalise airlines that operate aircraft that cause too much noise, vibration or any other form of pollution, such as smoke.

Details of the scheme remain to be worked out by the Department of Trade, which could choose several methods of applying penalties.

Whichever scheme is adopted it will have the effect of hastening the scrapping of older, noisier aircraft such as the early Boeing 707s, DC8s and Trident, and the purchase by the airlines, at enormous cost, of the new generation of wide-bodied airliners.

Planning law may need redrafting

By John Young

Planning Reporter

Uncertainty about the planning law at local authority level has been disclosed by an application now under review by the Vale of White Horse district council, Oxfordshire. The case suggests that authorities may be misinterpreting the various Town and Country Planning Acts, or that the Acts themselves need redrafting.

The circumstances of the application, although it has aroused little public protest, including that of Sir John H. Mann, are of mainly parochial interest. In 1973 a farmer in the Cotswold village of Shellington was granted outline permission by the former district council to build a house for his dairy herd manager.

Residents objected that the building would obstruct their view and would detract from the setting and character of the village in general. When, to their relief, a detailed application was refused by the present council in September last year, the issue was assumed to have been resolved.

But earlier this year a new application was submitted for four-bedroom house and double garage on the same site. Instead of immediately rejecting it, the council believed that it was obliged to consider the details because the outline permission was no longer valid. The council has now decided to call a confidential meeting of its planning committee next Monday to reconsider the whole matter.

must be submitted, had long since expired, as had the six-month period for appeals. But the council still insisted that the mere fact that the first detailed application had been submitted within three years, even though it had been refused, meant that the outline permission was still valid and could not be revoked without the council's incurring liability for compensation.

The Department of the Environment, this week, confirmed the opinion expressed by counsel for the objectors that the council was misinterpreting the law and that the outline permission was no longer valid. The council has now decided to call a confidential meeting of its planning committee next Monday to reconsider the whole matter.

Mr Fisher said he objected to Mr Fisher's "doctoring his articles. He was an independent writer and it was not the role of the editor to introduce into articles words that he would not have written without his consent."

Mr Fisher said any alterations he had made were in good faith. He had made many efforts to speak to Mr Tether but the time came when he simply gave up.

Mr Jeffrey Owen, the newspaper's deputy editor, said many of Mr Tether's articles could be regarded as "borderline" in the sense that neither he nor Mr Fisher thought their quality was very good. It was totally untrue that Mr Fisher had been motivated by malice in his editorial judgments.

The hearing continues today.

'Many are engaged in shady deals'

Many businessmen who handled contracts with countries in the Middle East were involved in shady deals, the prosecution alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday at the trial of a British Army officer accused of taking bribes. Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the Crown, said many essentially illegal dealings were disguised under a nice name.

He was opening the case against Lieutenant-Colonel David Randal, who worked for the Ministry of Defence sales organisation, and two executives of a radio equipment firm.

Col Randal is accused of taking about £25,000 in bribes to ensure that radio equipment made by the two other defendants' company was bought and installed in Chieftain tanks and the Scimitar helicopter.

Mr Richardson said: "Many people are perhaps engaged in shady activities, unwilling to call a spade a spade. Every bribe is in a sense a commission, but not all commission bribes are bribes."

Col Randal, aged 40, of the Royal Signals, Aldershot, denies corruption charges with Geoffrey Wellburn, aged 40, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Frank Nurdin, aged 60, of Barnet Road, Acton, Hertfordshire.

Mr Wellburn was managing director of Rascal BCC Ltd at Wembley, a subsidiary of the Rascal group at Bracknell, Berkshire which specialises in electronic and communication equipment. Mr Nurdin was the sales director.

The trial continues today.

Firemen may call for strike although leaders back 10%

By Our Labour Staff

The Fire Brigades Union executive is expected to recommend its 30,000 members to accept a pay offer of 10 per cent and the prospect of further advances on earnings and hours next year.

The decision, however, remains with the recalled annual conference of the union next Monday, at which militants are expected to seek strike action in support of their original claim for 30 per cent.

Union leaders agreed yesterday to circulate brigades with details of the offer after talks with the local authority employers resumed.

Neither side would say what the details were. Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, felt it best to report the outcome of the discussions to the membership.

After consultations between both sides and Mr Rees, Home Secretary, it appears that the employers have stuck rigidly to their line of 10 per cent as an immediate increase.

Think tank's radio 'error'

By Kenneth Gosling

Radio has been seen by the Central Policy Review Staff (think tank) as "a sort of public utility, like water or electricity, to be switched on when you need news and information about world affairs."

The reason, he told the Royal Commonwealth Society, was a regard for British values and values, a preference for the role of British broadcasting and a trust in its professionalism and integrity.

Ultimately it is the climate of opinion which is subtly affected and good will towards Britain which is created, not just among those with power and influence but among the many in all walks of life whose cumulative influence must be the long run count as much."

Firemen may call for strike although leaders back 10%

But they have indicated, without firm commitment, that the firemen's 48-hour week might be reduced by three hours next autumn and another three in 1979.

Mr Rees is believed to have told the two sides in the negotiations that to compensate for that, money should be available to recruit the extra 3,000 firemen who will be needed at each stage.

Discussions would also continue on the pay of firemen relative to other groups and Mr Rees is thought to have indicated that he would seriously consider the findings of any internal study.

As with the police, whose pay review by Lord Edmund-Davies is due in April, Mr Rees is not committing himself to a date for implementing any findings.

Monday's debate is likely to be stormy. With nine brigades restricting themselves to emergency calls, union leaders will find themselves under pressure. Staffordshire is one brigade that has called for industrial action and others are expected to follow suit.

NUR to seek 'substantial' pay increases from April

The National Union of Railmen decided yesterday to lodge immediate claims for "substantial" pay increases from next April for its 170,000 members employed by British Rail, London Transport and British Transport Police.

The union's executive yesterday stood by NUR policy of not seeking to break the 12-month rule. But the union will be closely watching the negotiations on the miners' pay claim.

The NUR has started talks with the British Railways Board in the hope of gaining a national pact on productivity outside any annual wage rise.

In theory, the union's policy is far more to restore the standard of living before phase one.

To do that, the NUR calculates, would require rises of 63 per cent.

The NUR is in negotiations for its 20,000 members, mainly lorry drivers, in the National Freight Corporation. The negotiators are under pressure to go for an award of 10 per cent like that offered to West Midlands lorry drivers in a deal being examined by the Government. But so far neither party has committed itself to a figure.

Lady Wootton favours Lords' abolition

By Our Political Correspondent

The Labour Party conference decision this year to "sign the death warrant" of the House of Lords is accepted "not without regret" by Lady Wootton of Abinger, the Labour peer, in an article published by *New Society* today.

"I am driven to the conclusion that whatever path to reform one may explore, one is eventually blocked by insuperable obstacles, and that (at least in a unitary state) a second chamber is bound to be either obstructive or superfluous," she writes.

If Bills could be first published for wide discussion and if the Commons worked to a sensible timetable and made more use of committees to examine legislative proposals, surely 635 elected legislators be enough to govern us, without the addition of a few hundred more men and women doing the same work, she says.

Life sentence for murder of Heidi Reddin

Sentences of life imprisonment for murder and eight years for rape, to run concurrently, were imposed by Mr Justice Croom-Johnson at Norwich Crown Court yesterday on Paul Hunter, aged 27, a dustman, in *Parade*. He was charged with the murder of Heidi Reddin, 14, of *Parade*, in 1976.

He had pleaded not guilty to the charges, which involved the death of Heidi Reddin, 14, of *Parade*, in 1976.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty by a majority of 10 to two.

Police brick charge

Stuart Brickell, aged 27, accountant, was remanded in custody for a charge of obstructing a constable.

He was charged with obstructing a constable with a view to his escape, after he was found in a ditch, body was found in a ditch.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty by a majority of 10 to two.

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15/11/77

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BARCLAYS

*As at 2nd November 1977.

HOME NEWS

Government move to vet students' union financing as NUS seeks state-guaranteed minimum £3 fee

By Diana Geddes

The Government is to review the ways in which students' unions are financed. The Public Accounts Committee is expected to undertake its own investigation into the accountability of students' union finances early in the new year.

Many students' unions can be considered to be in the big business league. The fees payable this year to students at six universities amount to more than £2m, most of which is paid out of central government funds.

Yet neither central government nor the local authorities, through whom the money is channelled, have any real control over how it is spent.

The Society of Education Officers is making its own review of students' union fees on behalf of the local education authorities in England and Wales.

Those authorities are responsible for paying the union fees for students on advanced courses who are eligible for a mandatory grant. Ninety per cent of those payments are reclaimable from central government.

Local authorities also usually pay the union fees for students on non-advanced courses to whom it gives a discretionary award. While none of that is directly refundable from central government, three fifths comes indirectly through the rate-support grant. Most self-financing students now pay fees from their own pockets.

The National Union of Stu-

dents, representing more than 800,000 students in total, is concerned that the inquiries by the Government and the public accounts committee will lead to moves to reduce students' union autonomy and to reduce the level of fees.

In a consultative "strategy paper" published today, the union proposes a government-guaranteed minimum fee of £15 for the 635,000 full-time students in further and higher education, and £3 for the 150,000 part-time students. This makes a total annual public outlay of nearly £10m.

The union says its aim is "to secure a structure of funding that is both publicly accountable and permissive of autonomous negotiations between students' unions and their colleges governing bodies".

Miss Sue Shipman, the union's president, has asked Mr. Wilton, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to give a guarantee that the Government has no intention of reducing existing levels of union fee income.

The union hopes that a guaranteed minimum fee would go some way towards smoothing out the big disparities in the level of annual students' union fees. In the universities such fees include £14 for each full-time student at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and £55 at Edinburgh.

Financing in further education (non-degree courses) is even more chaotic, the union says.

The union says that all stu-

dents, whether full-time or part-time, British or foreign, should be entitled to a minimum union fee. It should be paid by the local authority and reviewed annually by the union and the Department of Education and Science.

Ninety per cent of the union fees paid by local authorities should be reclaimable from central government in all cases, the union adds.

Individual student unions should then negotiate with their governing bodies on any supplementary fees required over and above the present proposed guaranteed minimums.

All supplementary fees should be paid by local authorities, who would be entitled to reclaim 90 per cent from central government for mandatory award students.

At present individual student unions submit detailed proposals for union financing for the coming year to the college's governing body, and the governing body sets the level of income and per capita fee payment. The local education authority then in effect automatically pays the fee required, without further question.

The students' union points out in its strategy paper that the system does not fulfil the principle of public accountability contained in the recent Layfield report on local authority financing, which was accepted by the Government.

The payment of student union fees, NUS strategy paper (National Union of Students, 30, Finsbury Road, London, N1 2LD).

Growth no answer to joblessness, study says

By Mark Jackson of The Times Educational Supplement

Unemployment will not be obviated by economic growth during the next five years, according to a Manpower Services Commission report, due next week, that contradicts the Government's implication that industrial recovery will fill lost jobs.

The view is expressed in the commission's annual review and plan, which surveys manpower prospects for the next five years. In it, as *The Times* predicted early in the summer, the commission's report, the Government to adopt a specific policy for employment alongside its economic strategies.

Manufacturing growth the commission says, will not adequately replace losses of jobs resulting from higher productivity and technological change. An annual growth rate of more than 5 per cent, well beyond what is generally considered possible.

They believe, however, that many new jobs could be created by expanding other "wealth-producing activities", such as service industries.

Their proposals for reducing the supply of labour include more early retirement and work-sharing. More controversially, they suggest a ban on anyone starting work until the age of 18, and adopting a "learning period" for all 16 to 18-year-olds.

Doctors find tranquillizer that does not dull senses Safe treatment for stage fright

By Our Medical Correspondent
Aspirant musicians who ask their doctors for help in combating stage fright before an audition or an important concert have always been told that a sedative may take the edge off their performance.

Medical science advances, however, and tests on volunteer violinists reported in *The Lancet* today have shown that the endless stream of new drugs from pharmaceutical research has at last produced an answer. Oxprenolol, technically a beta-blocker, beta-receptor blocking agent, seems to be able to calm the nerves without affecting musical skill.

The racing pulse, pounding heart, dry mouth, tremor and sweating palms that characterize acute anxiety are all due to over-activity of the sympathetic nervous system. This primitive

instinctive response to danger is a biological preparation for fight or flight: appropriate for the caveman faced with a sabre-toothed tiger but far from ideal for a violinist in the Wigmore Hall.

With that paradox in mind, a group of doctors at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, decided to try the effects of treating musicians with oxprenolol, one of a group of drugs developed to treat heart disease by blocking the action of hormones such as adrenaline on the nerve receptors that control the heart rate and blood pressure.

When given to anxious patients such drugs have no direct effect on the emotions or on the brain, but by slowing the heart and stopping tremor they cut through the vicious circle and have a rapid calming effect.

The doctors collected 24 volunteers from musical academies, all of whom were intending to make a career as string players. They agreed to appear on two successive days before an invited audience at the Wigmore Hall.

On the first day half the musicians were given oxprenolol and half were given placebo tablets; on the second day the groups were transposed. Their medical states and their musical performances were assessed by experts.

When taking oxprenolol the musicians had slower heart rates, lower blood pressures and less tremor than when taking the placebo tablets. In addition their musicianship and their overall musical performance were also better.

Source: *The Lancet*, Nov 5, page 852.

Reduction in role of commission suggested

By Lucy Hodges, of The Times Educational Supplement

A confidential report on the Equal Opportunities Commission suggests that its education section should be discarded and many of its powers transferred to the Department of Education and Science.

That brings to a head prolonged resentment between the department and the commission. The commission feels that the department has not done enough to combat sex discrimination in schools and colleges, while the department is believed to think that the matter is not as serious as some people make out.

The commission's officers say that the Home Office civil servants who prepared the report, which was primarily concerned with rechecking staffing levels, were first primed by the Department of Education and Science. They believe the department resents the powers the commission has been given over education.

The Home Office's staffing check says there is no need for a separate education section in the commission and that the work can be done by its goods, facilities and services section. It is also believed to say that the education section contains too many staff and that the main thrust of the commission's work should be concentrated on employment.

It is not thought likely that anything will come of the report.

NF members interrupt Heath rally

Two National Front members disrupted a Conservative rally at Lambeth Town Hall, London last night and shouted "traitor" at the guest speaker, Mr. Edward Heath. About fifty members of the Front demonstrated outside the meeting.

As Mr. Heath was being introduced a young man shouted: "This man, you say, has changed the future of our country. This man has betrayed our country. This man's policy has betrayed Britain." He was escorted out.

A young woman who then got up and shouted: "You are a traitor to the country" was also ejected.

When he was able to deliver his speech, Mr. Heath, whose government ended in 1974 after a confrontation with the miners, said: "The Prime Minister has made it plain that he would not stay in his present position if the pay guidelines were demonstrably broken."

"It may be that the question was not answered in 1974 and that it is now being posed again. It remains to be seen whether it is going to be answered or not."

Mr. Heath said more working days had been lost this year through strikes than were lost in 1973, the last year the Conservatives were in power.

"I do not think we want to accept the argument that the trade unions cause more trouble when a Conservative government is in power than when Labour is in office," he said.

In a passing reference to the demonstration outside, Mr. Heath said that when large numbers of young people came from school and university and were unable to find jobs they lost faith in the democratic system. Unemployment led to a growth of hooliganism and racial hatred, and to a loss of faith in the democratic system.

Mr. Heath said more working days had been lost this year through strikes than were lost in 1973, the last year the Conservatives were in power.

Wrong to prolong a useless life, surgeon maintains

By John Roper

Although teaching and research in medicine are complementary the time has come to consider separate teaching and research funding to universities according to Professor Sir Andrew Watt Kay, Regius Professor of Surgery at Glasgow University and Chief Scientist of the Scottish Home and Health Department.

Sir Andrew, who was giving the Rock Carling Memorial Lecture introducing this year's monograph on research in medicine, said that between 1973 and 1977 there had been a marked decline in medically qualified staff paid for by research grants at Glasgow.

With the introduction of the fairly rigid training programmes over seven years, completion of which would almost ensure a consultant appointment, even a year or two in research would add substantially to the time a trainee would take to climb the career ladder.

Young men saw that the safe course today was to stick to the programme, so taking the shortest and surest route to a consultant post.

Further discouragement for young men with an interest in medical research sprang from the arrangements for paying junior hospital doctors overtime "under their new contract. A substantial part of a

young doctor's salary, up to about £2,000, might come in overtime payments: as those payments were strictly confined to patient care there was real financial disincentive to leave clinical medicine to gain research training.

A career structure and improved career prospects for research workers had become an urgent requirement.

In a chapter in his monograph on communication with the public, Sir Andrew expresses his personal belief that it is wrong to resuscitate a terminal patient, to prolong a useless and tragic life by, for example, frustrating the friend of the hopelessly ill and lonely aged, pneumonia, by giving antibiotics.

It is inhuman to give chemotherapy or radiation to the dying cancer patient if all the treatment offered is a dragging out of an intolerable existence for a few more agonizing days or weeks.

The proper care of the dying patient does not end with withdrawal of special forms of treatment, he continued. Skilled nursing, relief of pain and, more important, regular thoughtful visits by all members of the caring team might not prolong life but would permit death with comfort and dignity. (Research in Medicine: Problems and Prospects, Rock Carling Fellowship (Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, £3.50).

Police found pub bars crowded with caged birds

By Michael Horsnell

When the police raided a public house in the East End of London on a Sunday lunchtime last month they found two bars crowded with caged wild British birds and about 15 people selling them. It was stated at Old Street Magistrates' Court yesterday. Five men were fined a total of £115 on charges brought under the Protection of Birds Act.

Sergeant Dennis Watling said he and other officers went to the Knave of Clubs public house in Bethnal Green with investigators from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and watched the birds being sold before making their arrests. At that point, he said, birds were let loose everywhere and chaos reigned in the public house.

Many of the birds captured by the police in their cages were in court yesterday as exhibits. After the hearing Mr. John Nichols, the magistrate, ordered their forfeiture to the RSPB which later released them.

Anthony Fulmar, aged 36, of Adolphe Road, Hampstead, denied possessing three gold-

finches but was found guilty and fined £20. Four other men pleaded guilty at a separate hearing to charges of possessing and selling wild birds.

Mr. John Robinson, head of the RSPB's investigations branch, told the court that most of the birds in the public house, including goldfinches, linnets, redpolls and a kestrel, were unringed.

Thomas Hasler, aged 29, a warehouseman, of Grays, Essex, admitted two charges of possessing 19 goldfinches and one charge of selling three of them. Peter Wright, aged 20, of Brickendon, Hertfordshire, admitted two charges of possessing 20 wild birds and one charge of selling two redpolls.

Anthony Newman, aged 27, of Tilbury, Essex, admitted possessing one kestrel, and Thomas Hart, aged 18, also of Tilbury, admitted possessing eight wild birds, and another charge of offering them for sale. Mr. Hasler, Mr. Wright and Mr. Hart were fined £10 on each offence, and Mr. Newman, who said he found the kestrel near his home, was fined £15.

Prison drug allegations 'are unfounded'

By Peter Evans

Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State at the Home Office, yesterday criticized allegations of improper administration of drugs to prisoners. They were unfounded, he told the annual conference of prison boards of visitors.

"It is absolutely absurd to imagine that prison medical officers are a race apart, operating on different principles from other members of the medical profession," he said.

Lord Harris said prisons contained many hundreds of people who, in the opinion of the medical officers, were suffering from mental disorders and in need of treatment in psychiatric hospitals. "These people stretch our already inadequate resources to the limit and place an unbearable burden on all of those who are responsible for their welfare."

Journalists given bail in contempt case

David Farr, news editor of the *Sunday People*, and William Dorran, his deputy, were remanded on bail of £1,000 until December 8 at Wells Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, on four summonses in connexion with contempt of court.

Three *Sunday People* reporters, David Alford, Graham Ball and Frank Murphy, were also granted bail to appear on the same date.

Both men are accused of publishing an article in the *Sunday People* that was a contempt of court in that it attempted to influence and prejudice the minds of magistrates before whom an application for summons had been made by Roger Gleaves, after he had started his application. They were also accused of enticing a boy to make statements prejudicial to the conduct of a case pending at the Central Criminal Court those who are responsible for their welfare."

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WEST EUROPE

French Government announces measures to tackle food prices

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 3

M. Barre, the French Prime Minister, today explained to the Cabinet the latest measures he is proposing to tackle inflation. They fall into three main categories:

1. Sanctions to prevent profiteering, with penalties for breaking certain price limits.
2. Reduced tariffs on some foods.
3. Streamlining of food distribution and wholesaling.

The main food items affected are chickens, which are to be sold at 5 per cent lower than the price on October 15, veal, fish and shellfish, which will be subject to profit margins limits similar to those now in force for beef. Drink prices in bars and restaurants will also be subject to a price ceiling.

Fresh pastries will be subject to a price freeze and other items, including croissants, will be relieved of value-added tax. Butter will also go on sale at lower prices next month.

The reorganization of the big food market at Rungis, outside Paris, and the creation of big supermarkets are to be put in hand, together with the development of a campaign of consumer information.

The measures will generally take some time to bring into force. M. Barre has avoided the short-term electoral advantage of a general price freeze in favour of following his long-term economic strategy to rebalance the economy. The election dates were announced officially today as March 12 and 19.

Announcing the measures on television this evening M. Barre said the fight against inflation was a collective one. "We have too often had the tendency to think that inflation is someone else's fault, when really we have a responsibility for it," he said.

M. Barre said he was pleased that the cost of services had risen by only 5 per cent in the first nine months of the year. He blamed the much steeper rise in the cost of food to a large extent on imported commodities, such as coffee and

chocolate. Bad weather had also pushed up the cost of fruit and vegetables.

The Government will be lucky, therefore, if the rise in food prices, running now at 14 per cent, can be slowed enough by the end of the year to keep the rise in the cost of living index below last year's figure of 9.9 per cent.

M. Barre will nevertheless try to point to an economic indicator as the election looms. There are now signs that wage restraint is beginning to pay dividends and industries' order books are starting to be filled. The "Barre plan" has been in operation now for about a year. The Cabinet also agreed a list of social and economic measures: harmonization of hospital charges; better social security for artists and writers; more support for ailing businesses; and an improvement in administrative processes to help the public. Individually, nothing of extreme importance was agreed, but collectively the package to be introduced in an election campaign.

The problems of the left, particularly of the Socialist Party two days before its national convention, have been confusing. The minority left-wing Ceres group within the party has issued a statement reaffirming the solidarity of the Socialist Party with the understandings made to support the common programme with the Communists.

M. François Mitterrand, the party's leader, has rounded on the group, warning it against making "inadmissible concessions". He must be worried, however, that at least part of the 25 per cent of his party that the group represents may defect to the Communists.

He is also facing an attack from the Left Radicals, the third member of the Union of the Left. They are threatening to split the party by putting up their own candidates everywhere at the election if the Socialists do not agree to allow their candidates to fight two constituencies. The present agreement is that the Left Radicals will fight 37 seats and the Socialists 197.

Judges consider verdict in Croissant extradition case

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 3

The court of appeal in Paris is to rule on November 15 whether Herr Klaus Croissant, the West German defence lawyer in the Baader-Meinhof case, should be extradited to face trial in his own country. After a hearing that went on without interruption for nine hours and finished just after midnight, the court is expected to consider a verdict which is bound to have widespread repercussions.

In the words of the French Attorney General, M. Paul André Sado, who took the unusual step of pleading the case himself, the court must

decide at what point the freedom of liberty to defend a client ends and complicity with a criminal begins.

This fundamental legal point is clouded by the political overtones. It is this factor that has made the case a unique legal occasion. Not only is the Attorney General appearing in person but Herr Croissant has been defended by an international contingent of lawyers from France, Spain, Belgium, Italy and Germany.

Herr Croissant added to the tension in the crowded courtroom by denouncing the Bonn Government as a Nazi organization and claiming that if extradited he will be murdered "just as my clients were".

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France and Quebec to hold regular summits

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 3

France and Quebec are to hold regular meetings at prime minister level to stimulate co-operation. President Giscard d'Estaing announced today. They will be held alternately in Quebec and France.

Speaking at a luncheon for Mr René Lévesque, Premier of Quebec, the President said his arrival here meant a family reunion. France was the neighbour, ally or friend of many countries, but with Quebec alone was the rapport in the most exact sense of the word "fraternal".

If fellow French were moved each time they met, it was not only because of their common origins but even more because they could calculate just what their "long fidelity" meant and because they knew how much effort, obstinacy and courage on the part of generations of Frenchmen had been needed to save their own, their French, heritage.

"However long the winter, the spring will one day follow", the President said, quoting from a French Canadian song. "Whatever happened in Quebec, he went on, France could be relied on to provide French sympathy. Today they have become aware of what they are, what they value and what they want. They are a people and they naturally demand to be recognized as such. The Quebecois personality



President Giscard d'Estaing, departing Mr Lévesque before yesterday's lunch at the Elysée Palace.

was equally divided between its French identity and its American dimension, the President said. Although France was not indifferent to "the political debate" developing in Quebec, it was not its place to interfere. The people would make their own minds up. "You have the right and you have the ability. What you look for from France, as I know from having lived among you, is its understanding, its confidence and its support. You can count on them all along the route that you decide to follow."

Mr Lévesque arrived at the luncheon, to which every member of the Government had been summoned, to the strains of another French Canadian song, *Alouette*. Before the meal he was made a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour—the second highest of the five ranks, and one which can only be bestowed by the head of state.

Mr Lévesque had come straight from the Hôtel de Ville where M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, had presented him with the city's highest honour, la Grande Médaille de

Vermeil, before an hour-long session to discuss co-operation. Last night Mr Lévesque was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Keeper of the Seals, M. Alain Peyrefitte. In a toast to General de Gaulle, the Premier said that the independence movement in Quebec had few supporters at the time of the general's visit in 1967, when he had declared "Vive le Québec libre".

But in two or three years, he said, the Quebecois would be able to decide their own future. If they accepted the independ-

ence that was proposed it would be largely due to the action of de Gaulle.

M. Jean Charbonnel, president of the Federation of Progressive Republicans, said in a statement tonight that there was "a singular irony of destiny" in the fact that President Giscard d'Estaing had solemnly received Mr Lévesque when "ten years ago he was extremely worked up over the support given by General de Gaulle to the idea of a free Quebec". He regarded this "conversion" as very satisfying.

EEC proposal for increased protection of hire-purchase customers

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 3

Proposals are to be submitted by the European Commission before the end of the year which would give citizens of all EEC countries the same rights when they purchase and other credit agreements.

Although broadly in line with Britain's Consumer Credit Act of 1974, the Commission's directive would in some respects go further in its protection of the debtor.

Disclosing this in a speech tonight in Brussels, Ireland's Mr. Richard Burke, the EEC Commissioner for consumer affairs, said that the promise of "easy terms" often concealed massive

interest charges. Borrowers frequently did not fully appreciate the obligations they were accepting when they signed credit agreements.

The Commission's proposal, Mr Burke said, would have two main aims: to ensure that the terms on which credit was given were fully understood by the debtor, and to ensure that the conditions attached to the credit were fair.

There would be a general provision that, with the exception of bank overdrafts which were already well regulated, all credit agreements should be made in writing.

The cash price of the goods in question would have to be clearly distinguished from the

credit price (that is, the cash cost plus interest charges).

Another provision of the Commission's proposal, Mr Burke said, would allow a "cooling-off" period of seven days during which a consumer who has entered into a hire-purchase agreement at a place other than the place of business of the creditor or supplier can cancel the agreement. This compares with the five-day period currently in force in Britain.

A further provision would enable a debtor to discharge his obligations under an agreement before its expiry and to receive a refund of a proportion of the interest and other charges.

Andorra holds its first election in 700 years

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 3

The feudal state of Andorra, for the first time in almost 700 years of existence, called an election. As before a feudal state, only 3,206 of the 27,000 inhabitants had the right to vote, even though there are 8,000 native Andorrans.

The voters are the heads of family who have been asked to decide on a series of reforms intended to adapt the country to the modern world. There are to be made the subject of a referendum to be held between now and March 1, in time to be presented to the Co-Princes of Andorra, the Spanish Bishop of Urgel and President Giscard d'Estaing, at its 700th birthday celebrations on September 8.

Andorra traces its independence back to the days of Charlemagne.

Until now government in Andorra has been administered by a General Council of 24 members elected by the six parishes and headed by a syndic chosen by the council. Law is administered by two "vicars" or judges appointed by each of the Co-Princes, and convicted criminals are sent to French prisons.

The franchise has always been very limited although it was extended slightly after a bloodless revolution in 1933. The first poll of the heads of family would seem to indicate that universal suffrage will be agreed.

Bonn stops Schleyer file becoming a best-seller

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 3

The West German Government has found, to its astonishment and discomfort, that its somewhat dry, 224-page volume documenting the Schleyer kidnapping and Luxembourg airliner hijacking has become overnight the most sought-after book in the country.

All 800 copies of the first edition were snapped up after it was made available to the press, Parliament and public yesterday, and many people were turned away.

As Herr Klaus Bölling, the Government spokesman, was telling a press conference that there was "no question" of any large scale publication of the

volume, orders were beginning to pour in.

The Government press office began to change its mind when a representative of a Munich publishing house turned up with plans to put 50,000 copies of the document in paperback on the market by next Monday.

He was told that Government was strongly opposed to the commercial exploitation of this particularly serious subject. Moreover, it was pointed out, the document was not for sale.

The press office is now planning to print as many copies as are needed. "From next week every citizen who asks for one shall have one free", a spokesman said.

German officers to learn more political history

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Nov 3

West German officers will soon get better instruction in political history and civics as a result of recent anti-Semitic incidents, Herr Georg Leber, the Defence Minister, indicated today.

Civic awareness is an indispensable requirement for service in the Bundeswehr, he said, speaking at an officers' college at Neuburg, near Munich, where 11 young officers played at "burning Jews" and sang Nazi songs during a drinking session earlier this year.

Six of the officers were discharged and a court case is examining the Ministry's request for the dismissal of five more senior ones. Disciplinary action is being taken against their superiors for failing to punish them and to report the incident.

Twinned towns issue call for civic unity

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 3

Civic power to counter-balance the superpowers was suggested as a solution to the world's problems at the Ninth World Conference of Twinned Towns meeting at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe. More than 800 delegates from 50 countries called for a "new world order" in which humanitarian considerations would be more important than economic ones.

This will be the theme of a publicity campaign to be launched by thousands of twinned communities throughout the world. The conference agreed on the slogan "Back the United Nations of communities" with the united nations of communities.

The conference passed, unanimously, a manifesto calling on all communities in the world to form grouped open cities free for anyone to enter.

Swiss most trusted by EEC inhabitants, poll finds

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Nov 2

Swiss bankers' hearts were no doubt warmed today by the news that people in the nine EEC countries trust the Swiss more than anybody else: just as they seem to have more confidence in the Swiss franc than any other currency.

That is according to the results of a poll, reportedly carried out by National Gallup Institutes at the request of the EEC commission, which are published today by the Zurich Weltwoche.

After the Swiss come the Americans, Dutch, Belgians and West Germans (equal), Danes, Luxembourgers, British, French, Irish, Italians, Chinese and Russians.

The countries that put the Swiss into top place were Holland, Denmark, West Ger-

many and Britain. They were not held in the same high esteem by Ireland, Belgium, France and Luxembourg.

In addition to its other accolades, Switzerland now claims to house the world's largest conglomeration of red wood ants—about 300 million of them. They occupy about 1,200 ant hills up to 7ft high over an area of 170 acres in the Marchais region.

The colonies, each containing up to 300,000 workers ants—eliminating tree parasites in their vicinity. The conglomeration, protected by law as are all ant colonies here, is in a nature reserve.

Spaniards urged to work and save more

From William Chislett
Madrid, Nov 3

Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, left here this morning for Bonn on the final leg of his tour of the EEC capitals after appealing to Spaniards last night to support his economic pact with the Opposition.

In his first televised speech since the June general election, he urged Spaniards to make sacrifices for the economic pact of austerity measures to be successful in righting what he described as a "grave situation". They should work harder and save more.

"Spain can no longer allow the luxury of losing millions of work hours a year and one of the lowest rates of productivity in Europe," he said. Four main steps would be taken:

1. The amount of money in circulation would not increase by more than 17 per cent next year.
2. There would be a wage ceiling of 22 per cent.
3. Price increases would be kept to the same amount.
4. Tax reforms would fall heaviest on those who earned the most.

If all these points were fulfilled, Spain's huge balance of payments deficit, expected to reach \$5,000m (£2,800m) by the end of the year, would be reduced and the present inflation rate of 30 per cent would come down.

The opposition parties have reiterated their support for the pact, with warnings from the Communist and Socialist leaders that they would be very exacting in making sure that the Government fulfilled its side of the bargain.

Señor Suárez said there were no magic formulas. Pacts would be useless, in spite of the many votes behind the parties which signed, unless all Spaniards threw their weight behind them.

It was essential to restore confidence so that investment would start again, he said. Police in the Basque country were searching today for three men who last night shot dead a police sergeant outside his home in Irún.

Strike stops all Italian flights

Rome, Nov 3.—A strike by customs officers and airport firemen halted all flights in and out of Italy today. The stoppage was part of a 24-hour walk out by 300,000 government employees after a breakdown in pay negotiations.—Reuter.

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More appointments on page 17

OVERSEAS

New strategic arms limit treaty 'will run for eight years'

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 3

The Committee on the Present Danger, which consists of experts in diplomatic and military matters who are sceptical of détente, has obtained and issued what is clearly an up-to-date draft of the strategic arms limitation agreement now being negotiated at Geneva.

President Carter claims that the two sides are near to an agreement. The committee thinks that this is probably true and that it would be a disaster for the United States.

Mr Paul Nitze, himself a former senior official who helped negotiate the first strategic arms limitation agreement, gave details of this week. The main points are as follows:

There will be a treaty (Salt 2) a protocol and a statement of principles. The treaty will run for eight years, presumably from the date of expiry of the previous agreement, October 3, 1977. It stipulates that the total number of strategic nuclear launch vehicles (SNLVs) will be limited to 2,400 for each side. The United States proposes that they should be reduced to 2,160 by 1980, the Soviet Union to 2,250 by 1982.

As far as this category of weapons is concerned, ICBM mean rockets with a range of over 5,500 kilometres (3,410 miles). The two sides have yet to agree to lower a range limit for SLBMs which would bring them into this category.

Of these 1,320 MIRV vehicles the number of ICBM is to be limited to 820 and the number of SLBMs will be between the 380 proposed by the United States and the 430 proposed by the Soviet Union. The rest would be bombers carrying Cruise missiles. Of the 820 ICBM, the Russians will be allowed to keep their present number of large missiles

(MLBM) which is either 325 or 328, according to the way they are counted.

No future missiles heavier than the Soviet SS19 will be permitted in future and all missiles heavier than the SS19 will be considered MLBM.

The Soviet Backfire bomber is not considered to be an SNLV. The Russian say that its present range is 2,200 kilometres and that its extended version will still not be able to reach the United States and return without refuelling. They will promise not to use it as an intercontinental bomber.

No Cruise missiles with a range beyond 2,500 kilometres will be permitted, and none with a range greater than 500 kilometres may be tested or deployed from submarines or the ground. They must all be launched from bombers.

The Russians want to forbid the transfer of any strategic arms equipment or technology to third countries (such as Britain).

The Geneva protocol would concern testing future missiles with both sides wanting to reduce the next stage in the arms race. The statement of principles would concern targets for a subsequent treaty.

Mr. Carter's correspondence writes: The comprehensive test ban negotiations between American, British and Russian delegations are adjourning tomorrow and will resume in December for what may be a successful final session.

With Soviet acceptance of the inclusion of peaceful nuclear explosions in a treaty, the way is open for a compromise on its initial duration.

Moscow, with an eye on the Chinese French tests, is reported to be still considering this. But a senior American negotiator said that from his standpoint "it's not a function of time, it's a function of what happens".

Mr Mintoff causes walkout in Peking

Peking, Nov 3.—Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, caused a sensation in Peking tonight when he attacked the Soviet Union at a banquet and provoked a walkout by Mr Vassili Tolstikov, the Soviet Ambassador, and Eastern block representatives.

It was the first time observed could recall that an official guest of China had brought about such a walkout. This kind of protest is provoked normally by the Chinese.

Mr Mintoff said: "In the history of the Mediterranean, which is slowly but steadily emerging, it will be recorded that, although the Soviet Union has much to gain militarily by Malta's single-handed efforts to drive out NATO from her soil, the Soviet Union remained aloof and denied Malta even the most rudimentary exchange of trade and information."

At these words, Mr Tolstikov stood up and walked out, followed by the envoys of East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia and Cuba.

Mr Mintoff went on to say that "in sharp contrast" to the Soviet attitude toward Malta "the generous deeds of the brave people of China" stood out. He mentioned China's achievements in Malia, including one of the biggest ship repairing docks in southern Europe and "several factories giving employment to thousands of Maltese workers."

Mr Mintoff denounced what he called "underhand operations" aimed at toppling his government before 1979, when the British military base on the island has to close down.

Mr Mintoff made a plea for a "new and free Mediterranean" and peace in the region, based on cooperation between Europe and the Arab countries and a military withdrawal by the two superpowers.—Agence France-Press.



General Chand and Lord Carver leaving Mr Smith's office yesterday.

Lord Carver in talks on transition

Salisbury, Nov 3.—Talks between British and United Nations envoys and Rhodesian Government officials today were devoted to discussing the transition to a new constitution.

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Commissioner-designate, and General Prem Chand, the United Nations special representative, who yesterday had lengthy talks on ceasefire problems with military leaders, met civilian officials for three-and-a-half hours at the office of Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister.

Conversation was mainly about non-military matters and related to transitional arrangements, a source close to the talks said. They included giving answers to some of the questions (on the Anglo-American proposals) raised by the Rhodesians some time ago.

Before today's talks began, Lord Carver was asked by journalists if progress was being made. "Oh yes," he replied. "Lord Carver said later he had not yet met Mr Smith and did not know if he would meet him before leaving, probably on Saturday. Asked how today's talks went, he replied: 'I'm not commenting at all.'"

The source said a "good mood" prevailed at the talks. It appeared that they were taking place in a cordial atmosphere as the British have planned a reception tomorrow night for all Rhodesian officials involved in various meetings.—Reuter.

Tories 'would give no respite to S Africa'

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Nov 3

Mr John Davies, the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, has told the South African Government that it would be wrong to think that if a Conservative government were elected in Britain there would be change in approach to the "intrinsic problems" of South Africa.

Mr Davies, who had an hour-long meeting yesterday with Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, informed journalists in Johannesburg today that he had told him no British government would let South Africa "off the hook of apartheid".

So long as the policy of separate development in its present form was pursued, there would never be a "fair hearing" for South Africa in the West, Mr Davies said.

He was speaking at the end of a long-planned visit hurriedly arranged and hurriedly ended. The South African Government's banning of two weeks ago of 18 Black Consciousness organisations, the closure of two newspapers, and the detention without trial of more than 40 black activists.

Mr Davies said he had pointed out to Mr Vorster and other Government Ministers that the way the South African Government handled its many internal problems appeared to suggest that it deliberately did not want Western support.

He said: "The first reaction was the immediate delivery of a distributive about double standards. But later there was greater understanding. I think the point has got somewhat home how best to treat problems here and if I were lucky, it might produce some results."

Mr Davies described his talks with Mr Vorster as "lively and sometimes quite boisterous". His encounter with Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, had been "more emotional".

He said he had come to South Africa to get information and to give it and also to come to his own conclusions about why Mr Vorster had called an early general election for November 30.

He had concluded that apart from the fact that Mr Vorster had chosen to go to "the active electorate at present" while the opposition was in disarray, the underlying purpose was to have a strong mandate for a relatively wide liberalizing policy.

Mr Davies said he had made it clear that the way South Africa currently handles its internal problems made it appear that it deliberately does not want Western support. "It cuts the ground from under our feet. It must give more attention to seeking to handle affairs either to encourage agreement or silence at best," he said.

Of the widespread banings and detentions last month, Mr Davies said he was not aware of the circumstances that had led to the Government's action but his own personal view was that he would have "least over backwards" to avoid the measures "the South African Government had taken."

Mr Davies is the latest of several Conservative MPs to have visited South Africa. He said his trip was arranged partly through the South African Foundation, an influential propaganda organization, but was not in any way an expense for the British taxpayer. His main task was to report back to Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet.

He has met one black leader in South Africa, an education official in Soweto. He flies to Rhodesia tomorrow for talks with white political and business spokesmen.

Bank robber frees hostages and gives in

Montreal, Nov 3.—A bank robber armed with a high-powered rifle surrendered here last night after holding police at bay for half a day, by threatening to kill hostages.

Heavily armed policemen finally trapped the gunman in an block of flats after a chase through Montreal's northern suburbs.

He had left the bank with some of his original 11 hostages and an undischarged woman, money. Police used a helicopter to track his movements as he commandeered several vehicles including a taxi.

His last hostages, two women, were freed just before he went into the flats, police said. The drama began when police responding to a alarm at the Banque Canadienne Nationale found the man holding 11 people at rifle-point in the vaults.—Reuter.

Carter embarrassment at conflicting statements

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 3

The White House has been endeavouring to explain away an apparent contradiction in statements made by President Carter and Mr Griffin Bell, the Attorney-General.

Mr Bell, the President's chief legal counsel, said he had not discussed the Helms case with the Attorney-General. Mr Bell informed the press on Tuesday that, in fact, he had discussed it with the President in July.

Mr Richard Helms is the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency who had misled various congressional committees on intelligence matters in order to protect the agency. He pleaded "no contest" to two minor charges on Tuesday and will be sentenced tomorrow probably to a suspended jail term.

The question of what to do about the Helms case was a very difficult one for the Attorney-General, and has been much discussed by the public for the past few years.

The discrepancy between the President's and Mr Bell's statements is very embarrassing for a man who prides himself on being a man who never lies to the American people, nor give a misleading statement to the press.

The White House explanation is that the President assumed that everyone knew about his meeting with Mr Bell in July, and when Mr Carter said then: "He has not consulted with me," he meant that Mr Bell had not consulted him recently.

The New York Times, which claims to publish all the news that is fit to print, observes that it did not record the July meeting.

Man who leaked Pentagon Papers questions right to conceal lies

By Peter Stratford

The controversy that broke out in the United States in 1971 with the publication of the Pentagon Papers is being brought to life again by the BBC and Dr Daniel Ellsberg, who gave the documents to The New York Times, has made a stout defence of his action.

Dr Ellsberg's remarks are made for a BBC Radio 3 programme called "The Story of the Pentagon Papers" to be put on on Sunday. He explains his own background, dealing with American policy in Vietnam, and he asks whether officials had the right "to keep their mouths shut about the lies that had been told that they knew of, about the crimes that had been committed, about the illegals, about the deception of the American public."

By 1971, he says, he had come to realize that he had been very wrong in imagining that he had the right to conceal all this information from the public.

He describes how he used to remove documents from his office at the Rand Corporation in the evening, photo-copy them and return them in the morning. Altogether there were 7,000 pages, which he copied with the help of Mr Anthony Russo, and occasionally his son and daughter.

His original plan was to have the Pentagon Papers revealed in congressional hearings, and he was in touch with Senator Fulbright about that. But time dragged on, and he went to The New York Times.

The Pentagon Papers were an official study of the causes of American involvement in Vietnam and they showed the steps by which successive administrations had become more involved. Publication of long extracts in The New York Times caused a national sensation.

In Britain, of course, the whole episode could never have come about, a point made by the programme. However, compelling the reasons for publication might seem to some later-day Dr Ellsberg, the Official Secrets Act would prevent it.

Even in the United States, Dr Ellsberg says, he thought that what he was doing was illegal. He thought he would be sent to prison for it but decided to do all he could to have the documents published.

An ironic point brought out by the programme is that the man who originally edited the papers, Mr Leslie Gelb, never expected anyone to read them.

Mr Robert McNamara, the Secretary of Defence, asked him in 1967 to prepare the papers.

Court to hear Kennedy assassination allegation

From David Cross
New York, Nov 3

A former Watergate burglar is awaiting trial on charges that he threatened to kill a former woman spy to stop her allegations that he was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr Frank Sturgis who served a short prison sentence for his part in the Watergate break-in, was arrested in New York on Monday at the time of the former spy, Miss Rita Lorenz, who claims to have been a lover of Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, Mr Sturgis released from jail yesterday on bail.

The authorities here are apparently taking seriously Miss Lorenz's story that Sturgis threatened her. Mr Alan Broome, an assistant district attorney, says Mr Sturgis told Miss Lorenz that "company (CIA) would take care of her" if she failed to agree her story.

Miss Lorenz, who is soon to publish a book based on her life, is reported to have told investigators for the committee on assassinations of the House of Representatives that together with Mr Sturgis and Mr Lee Harvey Oswald, the reputed killer of President Kennedy, she drove to Dallas from Miami a few days before the assassination.

Mr Sturgis, she maintains, introduced her to Oswald, and they studied maps of Dallas at a meeting held in Miami's Havana town. She says, however, that she left Dallas before the shooting.

Members of the House committee have refused to confirm or deny whether any evidence has been given them by Miss Lorenz.

According to the New York Post, which interviewed her yesterday, Miss Lorenz is being guarded by armed detectives in her flat. The police officers are using her food to make

sure it is not poisoned, she said. Miss Lorenz, who was photographed aiming a pistol at an imaginary target, told the newspaper she did not feel being threatened. "I can be dangerous," she said. "My daughter can be dangerous. I'm very proud of my daughter for protecting me."

The daughter, Miss Monica Mercedes Pérez Jiménez, aged 15, whose father is reputed to be the former Venezuelan dictator, Marcos Pérez Jiménez, was arrested and then released to the custody of her mother for carrying a loaded pistol. She claimed she had obtained the weapon to protect her mother.

Not surprisingly, Mr Sturgis disagrees with Miss Lorenz's version of what happened. His lawyers claim that Miss Lorenz invited him to come to New York from Miami, where he now lives, and even paid the air fare.

Vatican presents formal plea for jailed prelate

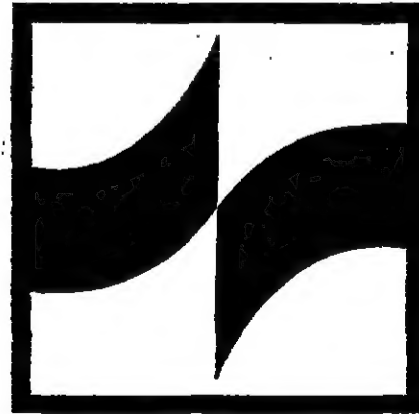
Jerusalem, Nov 3.—President Karzai received a formal request from the Vatican today to release the Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarij Capucci who is serving a 12-year jail sentence for smuggling weapons to Arab guerrillas in Israel.

Government sources said that Mr William Carver, the papal representative in the Holy Land, gave President Karzai a note from the Pope, seeking the Archbishop's release on humanitarian grounds.

It is thought that he will be deported to Rome by the end of this week, although he expressed the wish that he be allowed to enter the Trappist monastery in Lavra, outside Jerusalem, in a letter to an Arabic-language newspaper yesterday.

Israel considers the Pope's note as a de facto recognition of Jerusalem's status as the Israeli capital, the sources said.—UPI.

Guy Lombardo is critically ill
Houston, Texas, Nov 3.—Guy Lombardo, the band leader, was in critical condition in hospital here today with complications which developed after he underwent open heart surgery in September. He is 75.—Reuter.

German Trade Fairs
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January
11-15. Heimtextil — Int. Fair for Home and Household Textiles, Frankfurt
17-21. EuroShop — Fitting — Advertising — Selling, Düsseldorf
21-25. Int. Boat Show, Düsseldorf
27-31. Int. Green Week, Berlin
30-31. ISM — Sweets and Biscuits Fair, Cologne

February
9-15. Int. Toy Fair, Nürnberg
15-19. DOMOTECNICA — Int. Fair for Household Appliances, Fitness, Components, Cologne
15-22. CONSTRUCTA — Int. Building Exhibition, Hannover
15-19. Int. Houseware Fair, Cologne
15-21. Int. Hardware Fair, Cologne
22-26. ISPO — Int. Sports Equipment Fair, Munich
22-24. Int. Leathergoods Fair, Offenbach
22-26. Int. Men's Fashion Week, Cologne
23-25. Frankfurt Fair with Int. Fair for Musical Instruments, Frankfurt

March
4-12. Int. Tourism-Exchange, Berlin
8-12. INTERM — Int. Fair for Energy and Engineering, Stuttgart
10-12. Int. Fair CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE, Cologne
10-15. Internorm — Int. Exhibition for Hotels, Catering, Bakeries, Hamburg
11-14. ISIDO — Int. Fashion Fair, Düsseldorf
11-19. IHM — Int. Handicrafts Fair, Munich
18-22. GDS — Int. Footwear Fair, Düsseldorf

April
2-6. Int. Fashion Fair, Munich

5-9. Int. Fur Fair, Frankfurt
7-10. IWA — Int. Fair for Hunting and Sporting Arms, Nürnberg
17-21. EuroShop — Fitting — Advertising — Selling, Düsseldorf
18-22. Int. Fashion Fair, Düsseldorf
23-24. ISM — Sweets and Biscuits Fair, Cologne
23-24. S. DLS — Int. Agricultural Show, Frankfurt
23-25. OPTICA — Int. Fair for Ophthalmic Optics, Stuttgart

May
23-31. Interstoff — Fair for Clothing Textiles, Frankfurt
30-31. FAB — Exhibition for Hospital Equipment, Supplies, Hamburg
30-31. INTERFORST — Int. Exposition of Technology of Forestry and Forest Industries, Munich

June
4-11. IWC — Int. Exhibition Laundry — Dry Cleaning, Frankfurt
6-10. IFAT — Int. Sewage, Refuse Engineering, City Cleaning Exhibition, Munich
8-14. INTERPACK — Int. Fair for Packaging Machinery, Packaging Materials, Confectionery Machinery, Düsseldorf

August
23-30. Int. Leathergoods Fair, Offenbach
27-31. Int. Men's Fashion Week, Cologne
28-30. Frankfurt International Fair, Frankfurt
28-31. Overseas Import Fair, Berlin

September
10-13. IGEDO — Int. Fashion Fair with IGEDO DESIGNS, Düsseldorf
1-10. SECURITY — Int. Security Exhibition, Essen
11-15. IKOFA — Int. Fair of the Food Industry, Munich
15-21. photokina — World Fair of Photography, Cologne
18-24. German Industries Exhibition, Berlin
23-25. GDS — Int. Footwear Fair, Düsseldorf
23-26. IFMA — Int. Bicycle, Motor Cycle Exhibition, Cologne
23-27. automechanika — Int. Fair for Equipment for Motor Car Workshops, Service Stations, Spare Parts, Accessories, Frankfurt
23-30. SIMM — Int. Exhibition, Ship, Machinery, Marine Technology, Hamburg
23-26. Interboot — Int. Boat Show, Friedrichshafen

October
1-3. SPOGA — Int. Fair of Sports Goods, Camping Equipment, Garden Furniture, Cologne
1-3. Int. Garden Fair, Cologne
1-5. Int. Fashion Fair, Munich
13-16. Int. Fair CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE, Cologne
18-23. Frankfurt Book Fair, Frankfurt
18-23. Int. Boat Show with EMTEC, Hamburg
22-26. IGEDO — Int. Fashion Fair, Düsseldorf
24-28. ORGATECHNIK — Int. Office Fair for Fitting and Equipment, Cologne

November
8-15. electronica — Int. Fair for Components and Assemblies in Electronics, Munich
21-24. Interstoff — Fair for Clothing Textiles, Frankfurt

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- * Do a doors and windows.
- * The check that you haven't left the gas on and unlit—or that a light has not gone out.

If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the supply at the meter—report the leak. Do this at once.

That's in the telephone directory under Gas—and we'll call 24 hours a day.

We'll quickly and deal with the problem. And if you smell gas at or in the street, please report it at once. Don't leave someone else.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU—24 HOURS A DAY

Ask at your gas showroom for our free booklet 'Help To Gas Safely', which describes the full range of services we provide.

BRITISH GAS

OVERSEAS

Unita claims Russians and Czechs among its suppliers of arms

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 3

Unita, the anti-government guerrilla force in Angola, is selling diamonds and gold to raise money to buy Soviet weapons, Mr Georges Szangumba, the group's foreign affairs secretary, said here today.

"We are sitting on a pile of riches," he said. "The country from north to south is loaded with diamonds, gold and precious minerals. We are in business, very big business."

The "big business" he said was financing the movement's arms supply, which came from many places including Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. "Everyone, including the Russians, like dollars," he said.

That was how Soviet weapons were being used to fight communist troops in the country.

Mr Szangumba's visit to Paris came the day after the group's secretary, Mr. (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) to counter claims made by the Angolan Government that aid is being given to the guerrillas by South Africa and Israel.

His mission is to deny this and to try to prove that Unita derives its arms supply either from its own resources or from aid offered very discreetly by other African countries, including some which officially recognize the government led by President Neto.

He would not say which countries were helping. "When you start to write your memoirs," he said, "then you as much as say you have lost the battle."

Nevertheless, he claimed that there was growing awareness within Africa that Angola was a dangerous basis of the Soviet Union, a bastion of subversion. That was why the South African Government was willing Unita to win—although he was very careful to say that there had been no material aid from there since the Angolan war ended in 1975.

He categorically denied that Unita received any aid from Israel, but said that on the contrary it supported the "just fight" of the Palestinians and hoped that a dialogue between Israel and the Arab world could produce a solution to the problems of the Middle East.

Mr Szangumba explained that his denials were necessary in the face of the "panic" statements being made by President Neto because of the military reverses his "illegal and

minority government" was suffering.

It was because of the success of Unita's 10,000 armed soldiers (with a further 8,000 trained but without arms) that 5,000 more Cubans had been sent in as reinforcements, and why President Neto, during his recent visit to Moscow, had refused to release 3,000 Cubans to serve with Ethiopia against Somalia.

Cubans and government forces, he said, had launched an offensive against Unita on three fronts at the end of September, but, according to his figures, they had been outflanked by Unita and had lost many men and a great deal of equipment.

The Cubans themselves were divided into three factions: those who were trying to desert; those who were trying to get back to Havana; and the third group who really were trying to support President Neto.

Despite the presence of the Cubans, Mr Szangumba claimed that Unita controlled 10 of the country's 16 provinces. In these "liberated zones" Unita had established 860 primary schools with 3,647 teachers, and a further 15 secondary schools with 124 teachers.

As long as there is in Angola the presence of an expeditionary force of 24,000 Cuban and 3,000 Soviet troops, the war of liberation will continue, and all the manoeuvres and intrigues started by the Kremlin, Havana and Luanda will be doomed to failure because they do not correspond to the legitimate hopes of the majority of the Angolan people," he said.

Addis Ababa, Nov 3.—Ethiopia today denied allegations by President Siad Barre of Somalia that between 10,000 and 15,000 Cuban soldiers were fighting alongside Ethiopian troops in the conflict in the Ogaden region.

General Barre made the allegations at a press conference in Mogadishu this week.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian Ministry of Information said the Somali leader was deploying "imaginary troops" on Ethiopia's side because the war of aggression was not going well for Somalia.

He repeated earlier assertions that Ethiopia was perfectly capable of defending its territory against whoever came to help and said a Somali defeat was certain, even though Ethiopia had experienced some initial setbacks. — Agency France Presse and Reuters.

Dutch denounce Soviet suppression of rights

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, Nov 3

In one of the roughest denunciations of the violation of human rights in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia pronounced at the Belgrade conference reviewing the Helsinki Declaration, Mr Joop van der Valk, head of the Dutch delegation, listed the misuse of psychiatry against political dissidents and suppression of religious freedom.

He spoke of psychiatric clinics being used for treatment of people whose views were different from the official one.

The obligation to follow the government line of thinking, Mr van der Valk said, seemed to be a criterion for the application of the Helsinki records which had signed them.

He accused the Soviet Union of using a firm, restrictive hand against religious groups, discriminating against children in schools, hampering parents in their careers and arresting people just for their personal convictions.

Both the Dutch and the Belgians spoke of the Charter 77 movement in Czechoslovakia where thousands of citizens, it was said, were prevented from exercising their professions because their opinions differed from the official one.

Dr Goldman to retire as president of the World Jewish Congress

From William Frankel
New York, Nov 3

Dr Nathan Goldman, who has announced his retirement from the presidency of the World Jewish Congress, is the last of the great leaders produced by East European Jewry.

Born 83 years ago in the warmth and Jewish intensity of the Russian Pale of Settlement, Dr Goldman received his Jewish education there and in 1930 emigrated to Germany for university studies. He has doctorates in law and philosophy. A Zionist from childhood, he was already a member of the Zionist Action Committee at the age of 23. Thereafter his rise was swift, culminating in the presidency of the World Zionist Organisation.

In 1933 he left Germany for the United States, where he played a leading role in all Zionist developments and in the programme for the establishment of a Jewish state, though he has never lived in Israel.

In 1936, in response to the threat posed by Hitler, he founded the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and first gave evidence of his subtle diplomacy in overcoming the reluctance of national Jewish leadership to subordinate their independence. Today the WJC represents almost every Jewish community in the world and its most recent affiliate has been the Board of Deputies of British Jews.



Dr Goldman: Preeminent among Jewish leaders today.

While resident in America, Dr Goldman took a leading part in the internal organization of the Jewish community and was the founder and first president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, still today the most important voice of American Jewry.

But perhaps his greatest achievement was his vision and diplomatic ability in proposing and negotiating the agreements under which the Federal German republic paid thousands of millions of marks to Israel

Egypt cuts payments to Russia by £60m

From Edward Mortimer
Cairo, Nov 3

Egyptian debt repayment to the Soviet Union will be reduced next year from £70m to £10m, the semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported today.

This appears to be the result of President Sadat's decision, announced last week, to suspend unilaterally Egypt's payments to the Soviet Union on military debts as from next year.

The payments have traditionally been made in kind, in the form of "unrequited trade", an excess of Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union over Soviet exports to Egypt. Some 35 per cent of Egypt's total exports to the Soviet Union took the form of cotton, valued at £68m this year.

In August President Sadat announced that Egypt would not export any more cotton to Russia in the new season, which began two weeks ago.

The cotton in question is high-quality long staple cotton, for which Egypt should have no difficulty in finding a local currency market. It appears therefore that the decision to default on her military debt will enable Egypt to avoid replacing the cotton with other exports or with hard-currency payments.

Mr Mikhail Semyonov, a Soviet deputy foreign minister, is expected in Cairo tomorrow for talks with Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. These are expected to deal both with bilateral issues and with the Middle East generally.

But Egypt appears to be serving notice that no dramatic improvement in relations between the two countries is to be expected. Although a return visit from Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in response to Mr Fahmy's visit to Moscow last June is still officially on the agenda, Mr Fahmy's remarks at that time about a possible meeting between President Sadat and President Brezhnev have not been followed up.

President Sadat himself returns tonight from Saudi Arabia, after two days of talks with Saudi leaders, said to deal with "the coordination of Arab strategy in the political and military fields to confront the obstacles which Israel places in the way of peace."

Egyptian optimism about the prospects for the Geneva conference appears to be waning fast, and this is reflected in the relatively hard-line statements made by Mr Fahmy in an interview.

Mr Fahmy is quoted as saying that if Israel persists in rejecting any participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Geneva talks will not be held, neither this year or any other year.

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Editor of Bhutto group paper held in custody

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Nov 3

The editor of the Lahore edition of *Musawat*, an Urdu-language newspaper owned by Mr Bhutto, was arrested last night and remanded in custody until next week.

It was the second time that Mr Saeed Badruddin had been arrested by the martial law authorities. On the last occasion, in July, he was released after a week. He was picked up yesterday outside his office in Lahore and taken to a police station. He was produced today before a martial law court which remanded him.

Musawat is one of two Urdu-language newspapers owned by Mr Bhutto and his family. The editor of the Karachi edition, Mr Ibrahim Jaleel, died of a brain haemorrhage last week shortly after the Army authorities closed it.

With its sister publications, *Rural-Pakistan* and *Nusrat*, *Musawat* has faced difficulties

Trend blamed for US withdrawal from International Labour Organization

By Roger Berchoud

The decision of the United States to withdraw from the International Labour Organization (ILO)—a move which Mr Callaghan tried to avert—prompts the question: has the ILO's main agencies got worse?

This politicization is far from new, but it was one of the main reasons for the American decision. The general view of Britons involved in the agencies is that the ILO was a special case; that it is often far from easy to draw a line between the political issues and the specialist work of the agency concerned; and that in the past two years an attempt had been made to reduce the damage caused by the disruption of the Arab-Israeli dispute in these agencies since 1974.

The ILO is different because the representation of member states includes employers and workers, thus emphasizing the ideological divide between Western democracies and "servant" trade unions and employers, and the rest.

Mr Cyril Plant, former general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, who has been on the governing body of the ILO since 1969 and is chairman of the

workers' group, confessed himself saddened and despondent over the American withdrawal. But he had considerable sympathy for the decision, believing that politicization had got worse.

The last straw for the United States, he believes, was the International Labour Conference last June. A coalition of the Soviet block, Arab countries and various dictatorships blocked the nomination of an American as vice-president and rejected an American-sponsored resolution to sit on motions attacking member states without due investigation. Finally, it shelved consideration of reports on the condition of Arab workers in the West Bank, and on the failure of the Soviet Union, Argentina, Chile, Uganda and other countries to implement ILO conventions.

By contrast, Mr J. A. G. Coates of I.L.O. the British employers' delegates to the ILO for the past three years, thought the high-water mark of politicization had been in 1974, when the Arab-African group, with Soviet block support, strongly condemned Israel's treatment of Arab workers in the occupied territories. Since then, he believes, there has been a greater willingness to allow highly political issues to disappear.

"Perhaps there is less overt politics now, but it is still there below the surface. The ILO reflects the world as it is, and the world is riven by these questions," he said. He did not believe any organization would be reformed by withdrawal.

Perhaps the most politicized United Nations agency has been Unesco. "It's unpleasant. It's inevitable, and you have to keep it below the toxic level," commented Mr Richard Hogg, a Warden of Goldsmiths College and an assistant director-general at Unesco's Paris headquarters from 1970 to 1975.

In a book he has just delivered to his publishers (to be called *An Ideal and its servants*), he ruminates four main stages: the East-West polarization prompted by Soviet entry; the Korean war, when the United Nations tried to use the United Nations for its own ends; the arrival of the Africans and the developing world as a force; and the departure of South Africa; and, finally, the anti-Israel campaign of the Arabs, with Unesco as the first main target.

The Arabs skillfully chose as the main issues Israel's excavations in Jerusalem, which they claimed were destroying articles of great importance to non-Jews, and Arab education in occupied territories.

Both were perfectly valid Unesco concerns.

After two bitter years, the dispute was to some extent patched up in 1976, when Israel was admitted to the European regional group. The West enjoyed another small victory last November, when it secured the shelving of a Soviet-inspired declaration on state control of the media.

"The pressure is still there, but it has abated," Mr Hoggard believes. The tightrope must still be walked between Unesco's ideals and the pressures of the political world.

The World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva like the ILO, was for some time racked by the question of the membership of East Germany, which eventually joined in 1973. The Arab campaign against Israel there reached a bizarre climax last year, when a WHO report saying that health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza had generally improved under Israel's occupation, was voted to be "inadmissible".

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), based in Rome, has been spared such excesses, apart from the relatively routine question of observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The Soviet Union does not belong, but

China and most East European countries do.

Naturally, developing countries lose no opportunity to push for a new international economic order there as elsewhere. But with down-to-earth agriculturists in the ascendant, the atmosphere is in the main friendly, and no unduly vexatious issues face the two-yearly conference which begins on Saturday, officials say.

Mr Ben Whitaker, Director of the Minority Rights Group, believes that politicization is far from being totally rampant. The last meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Subcommission, on which the British were one of the best, he said, with people looking at the situation in Uganda, Indonesia and Uruguay, for example, on the basis of the facts and not of political bias.

He believes that American big-stick diplomacy, with its periodic withholding of crucial contributions, is counter-productive and plays into Soviet hands. "America pulling out is a tragedy. It damages the ILO, the WHO and the United Nations and is one less articulate voice countering the polemicizing of Arabs or Russians," he said. The Americans have, he believes, contributed to the politicization of the United Nations, rather than helped to reduce it.

In brief

Chicken 'used as football'

Denver, Colorado, Nov 3.—A high school football coach in Iowa has been accused by the Denver-based American Humane Association of making his young players kick a chicken to death to put them in a fighting mood for a game.

The association, which has asked the state attorney-general to investigate the incident, said the chicken had been painted gold to simulate a golden eagle, the symbol of the opposing team. Some weeks ago, a school football coach in Florida was ordered to stop biting the neck off frogs during pre-game talks.

Peking meeting

Hongkong, Nov 3.—Mr Han Nien-jung, China's deputy Foreign Minister, today met a delegation of British business leaders in Peking, the New China News Agency said. The head of the delegation is Lord Robert Ipsden, with Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of the Times, as deputy leader.

Bombs hit railways

Buenos Aires, Nov 3.—Three bombs wrecked rail tracks and part of a suburban station here, but a week-long strike by transport workers appeared to be subsiding after the military Government took a tough line on pay negotiation.

Mrs Gandhi hurt

Delhi, Nov 3.—Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, was slightly hurt by a blow to her right ear when demonstrators hurled stones at her in Karnata state, southern India, Samachar news agency reported.

Tourist dies in plane

Tel Aviv, Nov 3.—An American tourist, Mr Walter Carrow, died after a heart attack on an El Al aircraft as it made an emergency landing at Belgrade airport because of a faulty communication system, the airline said.

Joe Louis operates

Houston, Nov 3.—Joe Louis, aged 63, the former heavyweight boxing champion, had a heart operation and was later reported in stable condition.



Athens floods: Twenty-six people, many of them children, were drowned in Athens and Piraeus on Wednesday night during a thunderstorm, which caused severe flooding. In one case a woman and her three children were trapped in a car and drowned. There are fears that the death toll may rise.

Extensive damage was caused to buildings, roads and power stations. Cars, buses and lorries were buried against walls or into ditches and large areas were left without electricity or telephones. Traffic was completely disrupted and in one suburb of Piraeus 200 cars were trapped by landslides.

The disaster area was visited yesterday by President Tsouros while a ministerial meeting chaired by Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, declared a state of emergency. Army engineers joined the police and the fire brigade in rescue operations.

Freed rebel will fight on for socialism

Colombo, Nov 3.—Mr Robben Wijeweera, 34-year-old revolutionary, was released yesterday after seven years in prison for leading an armed insurgency to overthrow the previous government, and pledged to continue the struggle to create a truly socialist system in Sri Lanka.

Mr Wijeweera was pardoned by the Government along with 135 comrades of the People's Liberation Front, which launched an armed attack on April 5, 1971, to overthrow the former government of Mrs Bandaranaike.

He had been sentenced to 20 years rigorous imprisonment—Agency France Presse.

UN appeals to all nations to curb hijacking

New York, Nov 3.—The United Nations General Assembly today condemned the hijacking of aircraft and called on all states to improve airline and airport security.

Endorsing without a vote a resolution adopted on Tuesday by its special political committee, the Assembly appealed to all countries to adhere to three conventions drafted under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), but so far ratified by only about half the 145 members of the United Nations.

The resolution called on all states to increase the exchange of information designed to find hijackers and to take "joint and separate action" to ensure that passengers, crew and aircraft are not used as a means of extending advantage.

It also urged on the Montreal-based ICAO, a United Nations agency, to undertake urgent efforts to ensure the security of air travel. Governments were asked to carry out "serious studies of the abnormal situation related to hijacking."

The item was added to the Assembly's agenda after the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations threatened a 48-hour strike last week in protest against the hijacking of a Lufthansa jet from Somalia and the murder of its pilot—Reuters.

Third World report

Zambia upgrades its squatter settlement

From Our Special Correspondent
Lusaka

Those of George How made bricks, Bricks. They call 'em soil cement. Nice ones.

So thick and heavy So cheap So strong. Ooh for building a house Ooh for building a house.

The upgrading of squatter settlements may not seem an obvious subject for a pop song. About 55,000 people live in George. Altogether, nearly half the city's population of 500,000 live in shanty towns.

The development of urban slums is a problem facing all developing countries. There is hardly a city in Africa which is not surrounded by an unsightly maze of hastily-erected shacks thrown up by people who have left the land and trekked to the towns in search of work. Often the inhabitants have lived there for years.

Different countries have tried different ways of dealing with this problem, on the whole with little success. Some have tried costly mass rehousing projects; but even oil-rich states such as Nigeria cannot afford to do this on a suffi-

ciently large scale to resolve the problem. Others, like South Africa, have brought in bulldozers and simply swept the squatter camps out of sight. Many have been forced through lack of resources to do nothing.

Zambia, however, has adopted a more enlightened policy, particularly in Lusaka. Having realized that there were insufficient funds to provide everyone with even the basic form of low-cost housing, the city council has embarked on a big project for upgrading and improving its squatter settlements. The cost is put at about £25m over a five-year period (half of it coming from the World Bank), which is a relatively small amount for the number of people who will benefit.

Zambia has experienced the problem of urban drift more than other black African countries. More than one third of the country's five million inhabitants live in urban areas, compared with only 12 per cent in Kenya. In Lusaka alone, the population rose by 326 per cent between independence in 1964 and 1974 when the upgrading project began.

By that year 37,000 families in the capital were living in shanty towns. Although it is Government policy to provide housing for everyone, the state could not possibly afford to do so. So an alternative had to be found.

The Government's attention was drawn to the work of an organization called Social Action in Lusaka, a voluntary association which had been working in squatter areas and had drawn up a plan for

developing the existing communities. This association subsequently provided the basis for a new housing unit attached to Lusaka city council which was charged with the upgrading of squatter settlements.

The aim of the project is to provide all people living in the shanty towns with a tolerable standard of living based on the knowledge that they now enjoy security of tenure. This means that they must have adequate accommodation and access to basic infrastructure and social services.

There are two main parts to the project. The first is to provide existing communities with proper roads, running water, security lighting, schools, clinics and community centres.

The second is to establish new "overspill areas" for families which have to move out of existing settlements to make way for new roads or to reduce population density.

The most unusual feature of the Lusaka housing project is the emphasis on self-help and participatory democracy. "What we are trying to do is to act as the servant of the people not their master," Mr Richard Martin, the unit's deputy director, said. "The inhabitants must decide how their affairs and not just be dictated to by outsiders."

This is achieved by getting the grass-roots organizations of the country's single political party to participate in basic decisions affecting the townships' development.

Thus, elected party leaders at section and branch level decide, in consultation with technical staff from the housing unit, on such matters as the

routes for new roads, the placing of water pipes or the demolition of slums. "In this way, the inhabitants are aware they are taking their own decisions, not justifying someone else's," Mr Martin said.

The self-help aspect of the scheme extends the building of houses. The overspill areas, a person obtains a plot on which, if he does the work himself, is suit to buy materials for two-roomed houses. People remaining in existing squatter areas can also obtain plots to improve their own homes.

Most of the improvements being carried out are fairly basic. They are, for example, the provision of house-to-house electricity. But it is a state housing unit's offer of confidence that, by using shanty dwellers to do an initial improvement, they will continue to do it of their own accord.

Certainly, inhabitants seem to be one of them. Mr Isaac was in the process of building a two-roomed house, his sister, in the George area.

In only six months he had completed one and reached the roof of the other—all done by the help of a friend he had paid off his help to build additional rooms.

He planned to build a permanent house before, not want to build a permanent house, he said.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

THE ARTS

Hard to pick and choose: London's own film festival

The London Film Festival comes round again, starting on November 14 and celebrating its twenty-first birthday with a bewildering display of nearly 80 programmes. The choice is the more difficult this year because there are fewer of the big-name pictures than usual. One consolation reason for this is that foreign-language films are tending to get quicker releases in London, so that two of the year's major films—*Padre Padrone*, the Cannes Grand Prix winner, and Robert Bresson's *The Diable*, which received a Special Jury Award at Berlin—have already found British distributors.

The Berlin Grand Prix winner does appear in the festival programme, however: Larissa Shepitko's *The Ascent* was the first Soviet film to have taken this award in the festival's 25 years (during most of which, admittedly, the Soviet Union did not participate). This is Shepitko's sixth film, though no fewer than three of its predecessors seem to have run foul of the Soviet authorities. *The Ascent* is hardly a conformist film, drawing allegorical parallels between the ordeal of a group of captured Soviet partisans in 1942 and Calvary. Shot in richly textured black and white, it has a thrilling vitality and virtuosity.

Neither of the festival's other two big pictures made it for some reason, to London last year. The opening film is Bernardo Bertolucci's 1970, a massive panorama of Italian history from 1900 to 1945 seen in the microcosm of a patriarchal Emilian farm estate. Since its original Cannes screening, Bertolucci has reduced it by about an hour from the original five and a half hours, and says he prefers the cut version. It will be interesting to see, because in the original the badly grounded in the world of political confusion. Visconti's last film, *L'Innocente* (*The Intruder*), based on a story by D'Annunzio, is set in the world of the Italian grand bourgeoisie just before the First World War—a society of asphyxiating elegance that at once fascinated Visconti and offended him as the seedling ground of Italian fascism.

West Germany once more dominates the festival, with the director's vocal disavowal with his own country, this will be the world premiere of Hans Jürgen Syberberg's *Hinter-A Film Made in Germany*, which will be screened on successive nights in two three-hour parts. There are two Fassbinder films, his 1976 *Chinese Roulette*, an acid comedy about the new German bourgeoisie; and his 3-hour adaptation of the novel by Oskar Maria Graf's small-town melodrama *Bolshoi*. There are also two Herzog programmes, one with *Stroszek*, an unapologetic (for Herzog) comic and anarchic anecdote about the collision of the United States and Bruno S., the eccentric street singer whom Herzog discovered to play the wild boy in his *Casper*.

Hauser, the other comprising two documentaries on human oddity: *Le Souffrère* tells of the stonemason with which the inhabitants of a volcanic island await possible destruction; *How Much Wood Would a Wood-Chunk Chuck* describes a contest for auctioneers in Pennsylvania.

Two other West German documentaries are irresistible portraits of old stars: Evelyn Kinnock (in Rosa von Praunheim's *Ich bin ein Künstler*) was a popular singer of the Thirties, Forties and Fifties who just keeps going, defying the Seventies. Valeska Gert, the subject of Volker Schlöndorff's rough-and-ready *For Fun—For Play*, is a survivor from the Expressionist era, a comedian and eccentric dancer who preserves intact all the excitement and fantasy of Berlin Twenties cabaret.

Also from Germany are Solrab Shabid Saleh's patient, entomological study of a madman, a victim of the city, *Diary of a Loner*; Wim Wenders' version of Patricia Highsmith's novel *Ripley's Game*, *Der Amerikanische Freund*; and Edwin Kersch's marvellous *The Baker's Bread*, a touching study of a cheerful young apprentice who becomes caught up in his master's stubborn determination to keep up the old standards of his trade.

There is another Patricia Highsmith adaptation (she has been a favourite with film people since Hitchcock made *Strangers on a Train*) from France, *Such Sweet Sickness*, directed by Claude Miller, who made *Le Meilleur des Marches*. Also from France are three films by the redoubtable Marguerite Duras (*Le Camion*, *Rustler*, *Vera Baxter*, and *Les Journees entières dans l'Arbre*), in each of which she takes her particular style of minimalist cinema, viewed as an extension of her work in the novel; a debut that comes with strong recommendations, Benoit Jacquot's *Le Jardin de Placard*; and Agnès Varda's exciting comeback with *L'Une Chante l'autre*, a story of the tribulations and conquests of two friends over a period of years.

Varda's film shares with *Nine Months*, directed by the Hungarian Márta Mészáros, the strength of being a human document first, and a feminist appeal afterwards. In the Hungarian film Lili Mócsy (the marvellous actress from *When Joseph Returns*) plays a girl who decides to go it alone in the world rather than submit to male concepts of woman's role. The actress gives birth to her own baby in front of the cameras, for the sake of the authenticity of the film's climactic scene.

After that it is hard to pick and choose, for the festival of the year makes a special feature of 18 programmes of British independent, small-budget films, most of them premieres, and debuts by new directors. They range from the pure avant-garde (Steve D'Almeida's *Silent Cry*, Malcolm Le Grice's *Blackbird Descending*) to Jonathan Lewis's documentary on Thir-

ties political attitudes. Before *Hindsight*, and Peter Barnes's adaptation of his own play, *Leonardo's Last Supper*. There is a delightful rambling picture from Australia, *The Picture Show Man*, about a travelling cinema in the Twenties; James Ivory's omnibus of three stories centred on the dancers of New York's famous old ballroom, *Roseland*; Fred Wiseman's cool and killing study of the desperately exaggerated national sentiments of an American outpost of empire, *Canal Zone*; the Swiss Alain Tanner's *Jonas qui aura 25 ans en l'an 2000*, scripted by John Berger, and circling round a group of people going on for middle age and still trying to come to terms with their world after the traumas of 1968.

The great coup of the festival though is its closing film, Charles Chaplin's *A Woman of Paris*, one of the great mystery films of the cinema, never seen in the half-century since its first release (it was made in 1923). This was the first time that Chaplin directed without starring—be appears in a walk-on as a railway porter—and was intended to star his loyal and beautiful leading lady, Edna Purviance, and the great and witty Adolphe Menjou. With its story of a village girl who becomes a courtesan, and its moral that "humanity is composed not of heroes and villains but of men and women," the film has a quality that is at once Victorian and universal; and Chaplin's visual brilliance set a new standard for filmed comedy of manners.

Black Joy (x)

Plaza 21

North and South

London release

Voyage of the

Damned (aa)

ABC

Shaftesbury Avenue

Such is the state of British film-making that *Black Joy* is only the third feature film that Anthony Simmons has made in a career that goes back some 20 years. His previous features, *The Four in the Wall* and *The Optimists of Nine Films* (originally written for Buster Keaton but eventually played by Peter Sellers), and his short films have all been about London and Londoners, and no other director has caught them so well as Simmons, with his delight in shabby, familiar reality and his gift of unsentimental affection.

Black Joy, which he co-scripted with Alan All from *After the War* and *Light Nights*, is about the new Londoners, the black immigrant population of Coldharbour Lane. Young Benjamin (Trevor Thomas) arrives at about 15 (a rough experience for an immigrant), a country boy from Guyana. Arriving in Britain he has his wallet stolen and spends nights in a doss-house



Unknown Chaplin: A Woman of Paris at the end of the festival

before falling in with a friendly sponger and con-man, Dave (Norman Beaton), a precocious juvenile delinquent (nine-year-old Paul McDuff) whose mother keeps a café and sleeps with Dave; and the child's capricious sister. Together they show Benjamin the ropes of immigrant life in London.

Whirled along by Lou Reizner's black music soundtrack, the whole film is alive with life and vigour and optimism. It makes no claim to rigorous complete ethnography or sociology. The white presence is hardly touched on; the mutual double-crossing and cheating and meaning within the community is laughed off with unlikely tolerance and good humour. But this is a case where the positive aspects are exaggerated not out of misrepresentation, but because the film is precisely about the primacy of joy and hope and joy. "I wanted to show the reality of life in an immigrant area," writes Simmons; "angry and frustrated like so many other parts of Britain— but full of hope and humour." It is no bad kind of partiality; and recognised as the table it

is, *Black Joy* is the best work to have celebrated black immigration life.

The dialogue is funny, very rude, and coloured with poetry; the performances—especially the leading men and the child—are totally convincing; and Philip Meheux's photography, catching Brixton on the wing (often you can see that bystanders are oblivious that the actors are playing a scene amongst them) is outstanding.

This admirable film and entertainment cost perhaps one twentieth of the budget of *Voyage of the Damned*. The tragedy of this film is that while British talents of the calibre of Anthony Simmons cannot find employment, Sir Lew Grade, having decided to make the Great British Blockbuster, should occur the United States, to find a director (Stanley Rosenberg) who displays only a bizarre skill for reducing even good actors like Max von Sydow, Oskar Werner and Julie Harris to zombies. The players, in fact, never look more exhausted than in the scene of a shipboard masked ball.

The film is offensive because it trivializes a factually subject of condoning tragic importance; but pitiable because the people who made it most likely were convinced that they were doing something noble and humane. The story is based on a Nazi propaganda play in 1939 when a passenger liner laden with Jews was courteously shipped out of Germany to Havana. The Germans calculated that when Cuba and every other country refused to accept the refugees, the rest of the world would forfeit its moral right to criticize the German solution to the Jewish question.

The film conforms to the worst conventions of the ship-of-fools genre, with a mechanical jigsaw of all-star cameos; and of the Nazi war picture, with bad Germans blonde and barking, or thin-tipped, wire-spectacled and snarling; while the good ones can be identified as military men of old school honour, or chaps who secretly play American gramophone records in the privacy of their cabins.

David Robinson

Important revival of rare opera

Eurynthe

Coliseum

William Mann

Carl Maria von Weber's reputation as an opera composer seems nowadays to depend on *Eurynthe* and *Oberon*, rather than on *Der Freischütz*, an easier success that has become discredited and now needs special pleading. The later, more subtle and lofty *Eurynthe* and *Oberon* were never given lasting popular credit, rather the reverse. Musicians praised their scores, when they knew them: Schumann declared that *Eurynthe* cost Weber "part of his life, but made him immortal".

A curious immortality confined to the opera's overture, especially when one remembers how long Weber has been loved and admired for quite other works, the *Invitation to the Dance* to go no further. Yet there have always been *Eurynthe* devotees. For a long time they tried to help it up the staircase to popular familiarity by changing the plot, or the text, or even the music. Now the pleas are only for audiences to see and hear what Weber wrote before deciding if *Eurynthe* is not stirring early romantic opera.

One such eager champion has been John Warrack, author of the standard work on Weber, and now also of a new English translation of *Eurynthe* which the English National Opera took into its repertoire on Wednesday. Warrack's version is uncut, already revealed splendid qualities, particularly on a recent recording when left to speak for itself. Here it is under the charge of Sir Charles Groves, the ENO's imminent musical director. The drama is in the care of John Blatchley; the sets, based on the raked stage, are familiar from *Waldemar* and *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* (still good for service in many other operas) by Stefan Lazaridis.

The plot of *Eurynthe* is novel, and its incomprehensibly unvarnished, I have seen it more than once, and listened to it much more often, and now find the scenario not difficult

to comprehend: one must treat it as a romance of medieval courtly love and chivalry which has at least symbolic relevance to modern experience.

Others, who may consider attending this important revival of a rare and valuable work, must be advised to read a detailed synopsis (in Köbbel or Mr Warrack's book) again and again until it all makes sense. Mr Warrack's translation seems sensible enough, but it is not always clearly enunciated, singers being naturally apt to distort vowels and swallow consonants.

The dramatic quality of *Eurynthe* comes over strongly at the beginning of the second act in the conspiracy of villain and villainess (so prophetic of Wagner's *Lohengrin*): Elizabeth Connell and Malcolm Rivers exude revenge and malevolence as they intertwine their cloaks and matted hair, indeed their persons, in an cry of enmeshed hate. Mr Blatchley makes much of Emma's ghost, appropriately in theory devoted to the villain's intrigue and often in practice.

His production has splendid moments, such as the Quater-mass-like heaving of the ground vice dragon apparition in the desert. It is dark in tone, almost throughout, and sometimes tiresomely, though that affords some marvellous lighting effects. The regimental treatment of the important chorus looks consistently dull and untheatrical.

Sir Charles directed the music on Wednesday with more care than verve: it was a smooth-running, often lovely, more often dully monotonous reading. There was superb, dramatic singing from the villains, Miss Connell and Mr Rivers. Both can negotiate florid runs expertly: not so Lois McDonnell whose *Eurynthe* was sweet and gracious, expressive and amorphous in a gentle melody, wistful in bravura.

Derek Blackwell made a brave try at Adolar but seemed over-parted for the heroic music which betrayed some clumsy and ugly patches in his vocal sound. The English made a strong, dependable King Louis, although one would not nickname him "The Fat" as was his historical original.

Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

Johann Clemen's organ concerto was a strange work for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the orchestra of Mendelssohn and Nisch, to choose as overture for their visit to the South Bank on Wednesday. Clemen is not among the most renowned composers of the German Democratic Republic, nor is his organ concerto calculated to make much of a stir. Mildly deporting itself through secure territory, it allowed the soloist, Hannes Kastner, little room to show anything more than the adroit counterpoint playing you would expect of the organist of the Thomaskirche. It did serve, however, to introduce us to the orchestral strings, to the sweet-toned violins and the firm, mellow cellos.

For the rest it was Mahler, who held the post of second conductor of this orchestra in 1886-87, during the period when he was at work on his first symphony. Appropriately, the music made the main work, and it was prefaced, again appropriately, by the song cycle which Mahler used in its composition, the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*. The performance of the latter piece was spilt by an unfortunate replacement soloist, but there was plenty of German romantic sensibility in the assembly's easy-going accompaniment.

It was seen that Kurt Masur, the evening's conductor, finds himself in genial mood when facing his own orchestra, for the symphony also had an unseasonably reading at least, until the finale. The horns had a deep forest tone, the clarinets were marvellously cheerful, and even the café music of the slow movement, which Mahler marked "with parody" was done instead with warm affection, the lilting oboes caressed by the strings. If the finale brought a new note of drama, it also had much to recommend itself in grace; and how good it was to have a concert with no interval, even if the cause was a threatened power cut.

BBC SO/Barshai

St John's

Joan Chissell

The BBC Symphony Orchestra under the Russian conductor, Rudolf Barshai, introduced a new Russian symphony by Alexander Lokshin to London on Wednesday in a concert at St John's. Scored for strings, woodwind and piano, this two-movement work dates from 1970, when the composer, a pupil of Minkovsky, was 50. The Russian premiere was given that same year by the Moscow Chamber Orchestra under Mr Barshai, the dedicatee.

The music is troubled, and the two Shakespeare sonnets serving as text say why. The first is No 66, "Tired with all these, for restful death I cry," also chosen by Shostakovich for an English one-cycle (subsequently orchestrated) way back in 1942. Possibly the line "and art made tongue-tied by authority" has special significance for a Soviet composer.

There is a strong note of protest in the first movement, the strings sharing the sentiment with a biting intensity before melting into the desolate last line "say that to die I leave my love alone." The

second sonnet is No 73, "That time of year," ending the work in a mood of intimate valediction. Here again the strings carry far too much of the expression for the piece to be described as a pair of orchestrated songs.

Yet "symphony" is perhaps a bit misleading too, despite the lead given by Shostakovich in this direction. The style is by no means avant-garde. But the craftsmanship is skilful enough and the feeling so sensitive and true that the message does not sound second-hand. The baritone soloist, Thomas Allen, put words across with ringing conviction, and strings and piano played very feelingly for Mr Barshai too.

Symphonies by Haydn and Beethoven completed the programme. Bigger orchestras in London than he has ever known at home delighted Haydn. Yet the notoriously resonant St John's made the BBC Orchestra sound just a bit too much of a good thing in the "London" symphony, No 104. Nor did Mr Barshai seem to have anything very stylish or personal to communicate about this music. With Beethoven, on the other hand, he was on excellent terms. The fourth symphony came across as strong enough voltage to make nonsense of the common contention about this composer's relaxation in even numbers.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Acis and Galatea

Sadler's Wells

Stanley Sadie

Acis and Galatea, the crowning work of Handel's early years, has had to wait a long time for inclusion in the London seasons of the Handel Opera Society (or plain Handel Opera, as it is now to be called). It is not easy to stage; like an extended dramatic cantata, its series of arias is linked in terms of plot more than in terms of action; that implies that, to make the words mean anything on the stage, characters have to be arbitrarily transported. And the culmination, Acis's death and his transformation into a brook, is also apt to be problematical.

I wish I could say that David Thompson's new production, seen on Wednesday (there are three further performances), made light of the difficulties, certainly the stage looks well: the designs by Imogen Magnus and Miranda Melville, less unclassically stylish perhaps than those of the old English Opera group production, set, within a call frame, a pretty terrace—calling, possibly, the terraces till to be seen in Edgeware, with London, where the work probably had its first, almost certainly not staged, performance.

Treating *Acis* as a highly stylized pastoral idyll, with formalized movement and elaborate gesture, may in fact work rather better than the more "plausible" manner, because plausibility so often wavers. I was sorry to see that the comic possibilities surrounding Polyphemus were so eagerly seized upon: a lighter hand might be more apt to what is a pastoral tragedy.

That may however be attributable rather to Ian Wallace's impersonation: with his vocal resources slenderer than once they were, and his sharp gift for comic timing it was unsurprising. But Polyphemus ought to be able to thunder at least a little.

Joy Roberts made an attractive Galatea, perhaps a shade mild when singing of "fiery desires" but charmingly in the music sweetly and charmingly in "As when the dove" and soaring beautifully above the chorus in the closing scene. Her Acis, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, sang with authority and elegance in "Love in her eyes sits playing" and with proper virility in "Love sounds alarm".

Peter Jeffes disclosed a promisingly full-toned tenor in Damon's music. It is not so easy to find kind things to say about the chorus, but one must recognize the difficulty in assembling a group that can cope with five-part writing including two tenor lines, and further, can act.

Charles Farncombe, who conducted, tended to hurry things along at first, and though later he relaxed he never seemed to be giving his singers quite the scope they needed. He was, however, in lively form in the prologue to Rameau's *Les fêtes d'Hébé*, which preceded *Acis*. This delightful entertainment, if a trifle soulless next to Handel, was sung by the same principals, with Miss Roberts placing Hébé's music delicately (even if she is slightly bland in tone for Rameau) and Mr Johnson providing an eloquent Momus, while Dinah Harris sang *Amour*, music in pleasantly pointed fashion. The dances were persuasively choreographed, in period style, by Belinda Quirey.

A sequel that outclasses the original

Filumena

Lytic

Irving Wardle

This reunion for Franco Zeffirelli and Joan Plowright in another of Eduardo de Filippo's Neapolitan comedies strikingly breaks the usual law of diminishing returns as a sequel that outclasses the original. *Filumena*, judging from the Keith Waterhouse-Wills Hall production, seems an inherently stronger piece than *Saturday Night*, and the production shows none of the overblown grandeur which Zeffirelli launched this author on the National Theatre stage.

The subject, as ever, is the virtue of family life. In the first, Zeffirelli and Plowright, spectators reared on the watery sentiments of *Dear Octopus*, I should point out that in Filippo this theme amounts to a passion. *Filumena* carries the same message as his other work: overcome your squabbles, whatever they are, and live in peace. It is the most tightly constructed of his plays that I have seen; but that word "construction" involves Shaw's wretched comment on Sardou's "cradle" dramas. "When the critics said 'How exquisitely constructed!' I said, 'Where's the baby?'" What Filippo does, again and again, is to re-create his ancient theme as a brand new creature.

Prodigious craftsmanship plays its necessary part in this. *Filumena* starts with a marriage and ends with a marriage, but domestic harmony seems the least likely outcome for the warring partners of the first act. The curtain rises on the apocryphal fury of Domenico Soriano, a wealthy middle-aged businessman who has just been tricked into marrying his mistress of the past 25 years supposing her to be doing the ceremony. Domenico's wife, Filumena, bounds off the dead bed, a fully fledged mistress of the house, ferociously eager to make up for the past humiliations she has been swallowing ever since Domenico took her off the streets. She begins by demolishing his gold-digging new girl friend, and winds up the scene by tucking heartily into the specially ordered dinner with which Domenico and the girl had planned to celebrate her demise.

But her main plan is to legitimize the three sons she has secretly provided for during her years of dependence. At this demand Domenico hits the roof yet again, and succeeds



Patricia Hayes, Joan Plowright, Colin Blakely and Larry Noble

in getting a lawyer to pronounce the marriage invalid. In the second act, therefore, the slate is wiped clean for the partners to begin afresh. And it is from this point that the real qualities of the play begin to emerge. As before with a author, what starts by appearing a local drama from far away gradually winds itself into universality.

That is a process which Filippo duplicates in the play itself by bringing on the three sons, all unknown to one another, all with different class loyalties, and forging the bonds of family feeling between them and their elders. Filippo achieves that by the simple and brilliant device of creating one of them from estranged nationalists into people, that objection melts away. And apart from the climactic passages there is a flow of tiny encounters, like

weed out the one with his own traits. He never finds out, and Filumena, whom he recounts and remarries, never divulges the secret. "Either they are all equal," she says, "or they are enemies." The play could have carried Arthur Miller's title, *All My Sons*.

To some extent, the play's technical and emotional difficulties for the actor are separate. The first scene starts as a climax of rage that has to be repeatedly re-topped and Zeffirelli's cast, who gallantly essay Italian accents, do not altogether get away with it until they get some chance to relax. There is more energy than fun. But when they change from estranged nationalists into people, that objection melts away. And apart from the climactic passages there is a flow of tiny encounters, like

Colin Blakely's grizzled Domenico embracing his old crouching (Larry Noble) in joint recognition of the passing years. Everything about Mr Blakely, from his head-busting gestures and arrogant strut, undergoes visible transformation through the evening.

Joan Plowright, as a woman who cannot weep, works within a more limited emotional range, showing a transition from revenge to stoical dignity, before her final wonderful moment when she finds she can shed tears: at the time, it seems that she is dying. Other performances, especially Trevor Eve and Christopher Guard among the brothers, are incisively individualized; and Ramonda Gossam's spacious, heavily furnished set, crammed with successful and equivocal portraits, gives the family a real home to inherit.

Photograph by Zoë Dominio

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The serious level discrimination has reached in the queue for a job

I was entertained, but also saddened, by the picture of the race relations scene which Mr. Butler painted in his recent article. He is a sceptic, I know, but he should not distort and mislead. He has even got the law wrong. For example, the Attorney-General, not the Commission for Racial Equality, is responsible for enforcing the anti-discrimination provisions of the Public Order Act; and the new Commission is not obliged (as was the former Racial Relations Board) to take up every individual complaint of discrimination.

Of course there must be full public discussion of the issues. As I said to some newspaper editors last month, "The public want information and reassurance; there must be no sweeping of problems under the carpet, no suspicion of conspiracies of silence. Many people, including members of ethnic minority communities, are anxious about one aspect or another of the race relations and immigration scene."

I see things differently from Ronald Butler. If his picture and mine stimulate further comment in your columns, well and good. A year ago I made the very difficult decision to leave the House of Commons prematurely and take this full-time post in the race relations field. I had become convinced that in Britain we would avoid racial troubles only by a more positive and determined national effort, including stronger legislation. If I can work myself out of a job, I shall be delighted. I hope it will not be many years before special laws on race (and sex?) become unnecessary and are superseded by the general legislation safeguarding human rights. At present, however, there is need for a statutory agency to help Britain through this period of adjustment to an equal-opportunity multi-racial society.

Given the extent of discrimination and disadvantage from which many members of our ethnic minorities (especially the Asian, West Indian and African) are genuinely suffering, the extra impetus of the law is required for faster progress. That was the virtually unanimous, all-party view of the House of Commons when the 1976 Race Relations Act was passed.

I realize the pitfalls. Bad law, or law foolishly operated, can do more harm than good. So can over-zealous people who see "racists" under every bed and devalue the currency of the word.

But if we look carefully at the present scene, we must discern other dangers—far more real and urgent, in my view—which do not appear in Ronald Butler's picture. All my information, including such research as that done by Political and Economic Planning and the Institute of Personnel Management, points to the persistence of racial discrimination on a serious scale, particularly in employment, despite the progress made in getting rid of some of its most blatant manifestations.

The 1974 PEP study showed "tens of thousands" of cases of direct discrimination each year in recruitment alone. The same study showed that unskilled Asian and West Indian job applicants faced a one in two chance of discrimination, while white applicants faced a one in five chance. Many black people are succeeding well in school and at work; but many other black people, from their own or their parents' or their friends' experience, believe that they will have no secure or dignified place in British society, just because they are black. For them equality of opportunity remains a mirage.

These are the realities as I



find them, listening and talking to local communities around the country. The danger of Ronald Butler's generalization is "too little and too late". Something more positive than "encouraging each man's sense of duty to other men" is needed—and needed quickly.

The seriousness of the situation and the urgency of a more effective national response to it is also felt by people like my West Indian colleague, Mr. Clifton Robinson. Till recently a headmaster in Leicester with long teaching experience, he is now my full-time deputy chairman. Mr. Robinson first came here from Jamaica to serve in the war-time RAF. He has made his home here and, equally with Ronald Butler and myself, has a stake in the well-being of this country. He has, however, unlike Ronald Butler and myself, first-hand experience of discrimination and of the difficulties facing black people in

Britain. Despite his education and his work up the ladder, his experiences are typical of those which other blacks are still facing.

This has also been the message of successive reports by the House of Commons Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration and of the "Think Tank's" report to the Government. What is at stake is much wider than "race". If injustices are left to fester, the whole body politic will suffer. If we succeed in overcoming them, the benefits will be nationwide.

Parliament has given our Commission the task, in the national interest, of speeding up progress towards a fairer society. Our main duties are to help eliminate racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations. As Commissioners we come from diverse backgrounds—employers and trade

unionists; local government specialists; business people, lawyers and educationists; men and women; white, black and brown; supporters of all three main political parties; Londoners, Midlandsers, Northerners and Scots. We are united in our assessment of the position and in our programme of action.

We know that our task is delicate. We may make mistakes in the attack on injustices we intend to act vigorously, though not oppressively. To succeed we want the support of the whole population, not only the confidence of the minorities. The law must be both effective and impartial in its operation. We favour positive action (permitted by the law) to help particular groups overcome their special disadvantages, but we see the peril of "reverse discrimination".

Individuals with genuine complaints of discrimination look to us for support, and we shall help them as much as we can. We shall not be concerned with ill-founded or frivolous complaints.

To tackle racial discrimination at the roots, Parliament has entrusted us with the new power of "formal investigation". We are determined to use it as much as is necessary, for it is the only way to ensure equal opportunities for all. We shall use it, I hope, responsibly and openly with sensitivity as well as with firmness.

The law must be enforced, but we are not spouting for fights. We seek allies, not adversaries, in the drive for equality of opportunity. There is vast scope for discussion, for education and for voluntary action in many fields of national life. The more progress is made in this way,

the better. Government departments can set an example and can exert strong influence, for instance through the enforcement of equal opportunity clauses in public contracts.

Local authorities, with their new statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, can review and refine their policies, especially in housing, education and the social services. Employers and trade unionists can apply equal opportunity schemes in their organizations. Constructive work at local level is vital, involving community relations councils, minority organizations, the churches, the police, voluntary bodies and individuals.

Among the initial priorities on which we have agreed, none is of greater urgency than providing more help and hope for young blacks. Many have been born in Britain but do not feel British, potentially a lost and bitter generation. They have much talent to contribute. Society must redouble its efforts to draw them back into the mainstream of life. In our Commission's recent strategy statement, we called on "individuals and organizations throughout our national life to exert themselves more energetically to achieve a fairer and harmonious society". Otherwise, putting the issue negatively, the risk of racial violence will grow. Putting it positively, the nearer we can attain to equality of opportunity, the healthier and stronger Britain will become.

The challenge is to the whole nation. We in the Commission, members and staff alike, will try to play our part with a sense of urgency, a sense of fairness, a sense of proportion—and a sense of humour.

David Lane

The author is Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality.

Bernard Levin

What goes underneath when the walls come tumbling down?

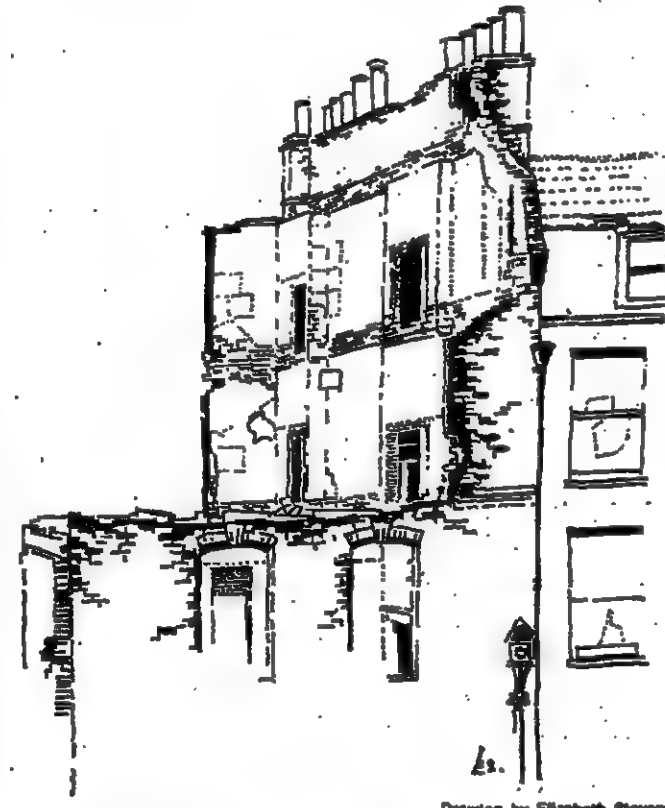
I have a feeling that the day when all men are brothers, and all work shoulder to shoulder in peace and harmony, may be slightly further off than the more optimistic among us suppose. It is commonly believed that the urge to build the new Jerusalem is in the air, and that the only things holding up the work are the growing criticisms of Colonel Seifert's designs and a series of strikes at McAlpine's. But I have a tiny scrap of evidence to present which suggests that there may just possibly be a much more powerful hindrance altogether, to wit, the preference that many very respectable folk have for demolition over construction.

Just opposite the building which houses *The Times*, a row of shops and houses is being knocked down. My room shares with the whole of the western side of the building (and of that of *The Sunday Times*, which is next door) a superb view of the work as it goes forward. And I have so far met nobody with a seat in the grandstand who isn't enjoying the show, and enjoying it, moreover, for reasons over and above (or rather under and below) the normal pleasure to be derived from watching others work, especially when, as in this case, the work demands considerable skill and interplay, since the men are frequently in the position of sawing away the branch they are sitting on, or at any rate of knocking away with a pickaxe the very bit of brickwork they are balancing on. (They remind me of the Brothers Bloodini—"Scaffolding to the gentry"—in Frank Dickens's

mighty cartoon strip from the London Evening Standard, who perform their daredevil feats before the entire Chester-Perry organization, and in particular Bristow, the spoozy hero of the strip.)

The other day the wreckers (I mean nothing derogatory by the word, as will shortly become all too apparent) got to a most memorable and marvellous part of the work. They were operating from what had been the floor of the first story, though it now consisted of nothing but the rafters of the ground floor's ceiling, and they had seemed for some time to be knocking down the end wall, first clearing the reinforced brickwork from the top of it. Soon, however, it appeared that they had something grander in mind, as they began to put up, having the effect of anti-buttresses, right across the area in which they were working, the idea was clearly to push the outer end of the inner wall, and leaning firmly anchored, further and further down against the doomed wall, thus inexorably forcing it outwards. We realized that, having weakened it, they were going to bring the labour of chipping it away brick by brick, and were going to knock it over from floor to ceiling in one go. Work at the two mighty inner newspapers (I do hope I am not about to be sent to Coventry by my colleagues on this side of the building) slowed down; nobody wanted to be knocking away when Jericho fell.

But then the men began to lever away at the wall with their struts, and a still greater joy seized us; for it was now



Drawing by Elizabeth Stevens

clear that the men were not content to push over the whole wall of the first storey. That, after all, was only the top half of a wall the lower half of which closed off the same end of the ground floor; they were going to push two storeys' worth of wall over with one mighty heave. As those of us who have got the picture (it's

very difficult without diagrams) will realize, this, if they succeeded, would leave them standing on the mere rafters of a floor fixed only at one end, but we assumed (rightly, as it turned out) that they were able to take care of themselves, and work on the westerly marches of Thomson Newspapers ceased altogether.

The wall—some 20 feet of it from the ground to the top of the first floor—swayed outwards under the combined leverage of the struts and of the men themselves, who, with astonishing coolness were working right up against the face of the wall they were trying to push over away from them. Under each successive heave, it swayed further out before rocking back into the perpendicular, it could be long now.

Back darted Spurious Larcine; Herminius darted back; only Horatius was left to face the bricks of Tuscan. With a final mighty shove, he sent the wall away, and it might have come to rest at the point of no return and himself dived to safety. The wall leaped over, and without cracking or even bending half-way, it went down a foot and a minute close to dust. But the roof of falling masonry was drowned by the rolling cheer that greeted it from our side of the street.

Now since I contributed simply the applause, I step into the witness-box and testify to my emotions. They consisted of pure, guileless pleasure in destruction, unqualified by any nobler feeling. "Would I have experienced the same intensity of happiness, or indeed any thing but a mild interest, if when I had been watching was the 'popping-out' ceremony which indicates that the construction of a building has been successfully concluded? I would not. Yet I do not consider, myself, whatever others may think, a monster of depravity; I *thoume* myself as a man of most decent feelings were clearly shared by my colleagues. (Invincible to mention names, unless they do send me to Coventry, in which case

I shall sing like forty canaries.)

But if I am not a freak, then the pleasure in destruction is something deep and wide in us, and it would be no bad idea to think about it, and about the reasons why we are so drawn to it. Depending, no doubt, on temperament, we can choose either catharsis / sublimation or yearning/repression. But in both versions there is something in the pleasure in destruction, which pours out whatever we are aware of by hostility, frustration or dissatisfaction. No doubt my *Times* colleagues and I, applauding the fall of the House of Usher, were projecting onto the wall that which we did not wish to recognize inside us. And yet that explanation, bright as it is with powerful truths, will inevitably seem too weighty for the instinctive pleasure we feel at the prospect of the collapse of the assaulted and ravished bulwark. On the other hand, if we think that no explanation is required for such an instinct and such a pleasure, we seem to have come to the conclusion of a basically destructive nature, an explanation which few of us would welcome.

There is a dilemma, not easy to resolve. But there are also half a dozen buildings yet to fall on the other side of the street. Some of us with pictures-wrecking over the action are now thinking of renting space to our contractors on the ground side of the building. What do you suppose that implies?

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Saving the Bellini for Britain

The successful outcome of the nationwide appeal launched in July to save Giovanni Bellini's signed and dated Cornbury Park altarpiece of 1505 for Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery has much more than local significance.

The strategy of the appeal (first reported in *The Times* (June 28)) was aimed at winning the patronage of men like Lord Clark, as well as of influential people in commerce and industry. It was also important to establish the status of the painting which had been virtually inaccessible to scholars since it was seen by George Grosse at the Royal Academy Old Masters exhibition in 1895, until its reappearance in 1967 on loan to Birmingham.

Intensive research filled in most of its nineteenth-century provenance and led us back to the Muselli brothers of Verona, the first known owners and recorded as such by Ridolfi in 1648. Our debt to fellow art-historians and, in particular, to our colleagues at the National Gallery can now be gratefully acknowledged. The illustrated booklet by Peter Canon-Brookes, *The Cornbury Park Bellini*, sets the architectural scene by summarizing the evidence, including information derived from a detailed examination in our Conservation department. This shows that the picture is a fully authenticated work, with the exception of the head of the donor, which was painted in probably almost at once.

But important though this booklet was for the company boardroom and charitable trustees, the general public needed less esoteric fare. Banners, appeal leaflets and posters were essential; we also produced button badges inscribed *Bellini for Britain*, red T-shirts and plastic shopping bags.

Our target of £400,000 by September 30 was daunting. At the outset of the appeal, thanks to the National Art Collections fund, the Birmingham City Council, Friends of the Museum and £50,000 from the Victoria and Albert Museum, we had £112,000. Two magnificent donations, each of £50,000, one anonymous, one from the late Dennis Mahon through the National Art Collections fund, turned the tide in our favour by mid-August.

Mr Mahon's stipulation that his donation should be absorbed by special Exchange or grant was at first received cautiously by the Minister for the Arts, Lord Donatson. The point had already been made by our appeal chairman, the Bishop of Birmingham, in a

letter to *The Times* of August 4 that provincial museums should equally benefit from matching Government aid such as had just been offered the Tate Gallery for the purchase of works of national importance.

At the time Lord Donatson announced special Government grants totalling £72,000, the appeal had raised some £300,000. Many contributions had been received from charitable trusts, companies and private individuals from all over the country.

The balance, including £5,000 promotional costs borne initially by the Friends of the Museum, has been underwritten by the city council to enable the picture to be purchased. The V & A's local purchases fund contribution had meanwhile been increased to £58,000.

What are the wider implications? Had we failed, the National Gallery would undoubtedly have wished to consider purchasing the Bellini, but since their resources have already been heavily committed during the current financial year, could the trustees have intervened?

Could the Government, in good conscience, have refused an export licence after all attempts at a private sale had failed, and the benefit of tax concessions consequently lost? The Government was only able to assist Birmingham with a special grant by using money saved from the arts vote which would normally have been claimed back by the Treasury. A special supplementary estimate will have to be approved by Parliament.

Must national and major regional museums always in future go first to public appeal to save pre-eminent works of art, if they cannot afford to buy them from their annual grants? And how much longer will the public be willing to bid out our museums and, by extension, the Government? What will the Government be used for, if not to safeguard our national heritage? The fate of the Gainsborough portrait of Benjamin Truman and the Warwick Castle Canaletto is still undecided. The process is cumbersome and hazardous. Provincial museums, far less well-heeled than the nationals, are in the worst plight of all.

Nevertheless, by deciding to support Birmingham's attempt to buy the last Supremacy Bellini, the Government has also acknowledged our status as a museum and art gallery of national significance. We are thus doubly gratified. The news will not be lost on Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, for example, and must increase the pressure for a national museum service.

Dennis Farr

The author is director of the City Museums and Art Gallery.

The Urn

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BIG RISE FOR SECRET POLICE
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WIFE-SWAP LOBBY REJECT MONOGAMIST OBSERVER
LAST HORSE DIES
FUNERAL POORLY ATTENDED

Christopher Logue

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Guns—who is threatening whom?

Although the Queen's Speech (not surprisingly) made no mention of the Government's proposed firearms legislation, the start of the new Session is the time for action. I was absolutely astounded to learn from WAGBI (the Widdowson Association) that, on the basis of letters received by them, it would seem that many MPs are simply not aware of the implications of the proposed legislation.

John Anderson, the director of WAGBI, reminds me that it is up to their sporting constituents to present them. Recently, in that excellent

weekly magazine *Shooting Times*, Mr Anderson outlined the proposed legislation and asked all those concerned with the shooting to lobby their MPs.

The arguments have also been set out in *The Field* and now the special leaflet produced by the Gun Trade Association (and financed by Shooting Times) are being sent through to the shooting public. So again I urge you—write now to your MP and demand that he looks to the interests of the shooting fraternity. The Government's pleading on behalf of shotgun, rifle and handgun is no special to be commended.

Hard times? Not for everyone

Thanks to the television version of *Hard Times*, our annual genealogy to Dickens has this year started somewhat earlier than a few weeks before Christmas. Remember that you will find any Christmas spirit, present or yet to come, in Coburn.

There was, however, much seasonable spirit (and fruit drinks, too) yesterday at the Dickens House, 15, Doughty Street, when the Doughty family, led by the author's great-grandson, the occasion was Captain Peter Dickens, a great-grandson of Boz.

Sharp reminders

The French are losing their heads over a new vogue in jewelry—guillotine charms. The trinkets, selling from pavement stalls in Paris at three francs (five francs gilded) are more sinister even than miniature Eiffel Towers, an amulet can scarcely be satisfied.

Dr Guillotin's invention is perpetually popular in France. Public opinion has pressed it into service three times during the presidency of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, though he is a declared opponent of capital punishment.

The guillotine manufacturers are unperturbed by accusations of bad taste.

The arrows and the targets

There was some shunder and shouting at the opening of the Cheshire Chess in 1977 yesterday when the Institute of Journalism entertained not one but two big names in the Meet the Editors series.

John Junior, of the *Sunday Express*, Fleet Street's longest serving editor, took a sobering look at press and other freedoms; and Richard Ingrams, of *Private Eye*, took a good-humoured swipe or two at the Street.

Preparations, he said, to blame the *Hitler* when they were prevented from printing certain stories. But he spread the blame to the specialists who monopolized reporting in particular fields and worked too close to their sources.

How did victims react to cartoons that caricatured them? Mr Ingrams said they sometimes asked for the originals of the savage attacks, and had them framed.

The rich aromatic, bitersweet chunks of Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade, have made the British breakfast a matter of envy the world over. Ever since Mrs. Cooper filled the first jars in 1874, the men of Oxford have spread its fame in the tropics, the New World, as far as the Antarctic and Everest itself.

FRANK COOPER

makes the marmalade that makes the British breakfast



Longest march of all for Reg Prentice

One of the main wintering points at Westminster yesterday as the new session of Parliament opened was how the Commons would react to Mr Reg Prentice, one-time Labour MP and now the newest recruit to Mrs Thatcher's back benches.

The new Tory looked somewhat apprehensive, seated two rows behind his leader, as MPs assembled to await the summons from Black Rod which would set them all striding towards the House of Lords.

He certainly seemed safe enough squeezed in among the serrated ranks of muscular looking Conservatives, but the testing moment came when everyone began filing out for the long march to hear the Queen's Speech.

The usual procedure on this occasion, before the two parties begin tearing each other apart in the coming months, is for MPs to walk from the chamber arm in arm—or at least side-by-side—with their opponents. Every eye was on Mr Prentice as he filed from his seat. Would any Labour MP worth his Socialist salt bear to befriend such a man even to the extent of walking by his side? Indeed, might not Dennis Skinner, ostentatiously showing his republican colours by remaining firmly seated as the others departed from the chamber, clobber Mr Prentice as he passed by?



But the new boy's Tory colleagues showed themselves fully up to the situation. A solid phalanx surrounded him as he left the chamber covering any nervousness with a show of non-stop small talk with whichever Tory was nearest to him.



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THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR

The three constitutional Bills will dominate the legislative business of Parliament this session. The other pieces of legislation mentioned in the Queen's Speech are of minor importance, will have to take their chance in the timetable, and can be deferred or dropped without much loss.

Ministers are confident that they have the devolution Bills sewn up this time. The disjunction of Scotland and Wales, the promised referendum, Liberal support for a guillotine, some improvement in the details of the Bills, the Prime Minister's almost credible threat to hang the fate of his Government on the passage of the Scottish Bill, and more weariness with the argument, should together afford the legislation an easier ride than it got last session. Progress on the European assembly Bill may not be so smooth, and a simple plurality in single-member constituencies must be considered, of the alternative voting systems offered, the more likely to find favour in the Commons. If so, the United Kingdom can hardly be ready for the advertised time of kick-off in May or June of next year. But it now appears that the country's name in the Community would not suffer from that unpopularity quite as much as was earlier supposed.

Differences about the soundness of these measures occur almost as much within the political parties as between them; and although they receive a wide measure of support they attract only specialised or localised enthusiasm. Most politicians feel less drawn towards them than propelled towards them. Propelled in the case of the European elections Bill, by its being implicit in the package which the United Kingdom bought on January 1, 1973; and in the case of the devolution Bills, by a belief, which may or may not be correct, that this is

the price which the political preferences of Scotsmen are able to exact for the continuation of the United Kingdom as a harmoniously functioning state (and that what Scotland is given Wales must be offered, or something like it); or alternatively, they are propelled by an even more urgent belief that nothing less than this grant of autonomy can save the Labour Party's bacon in Scotland at the next general election.

These three measures are indeed of great constitutional import and their passage will permanently affect, in ways which have been very little explored, the position of the Parliament at Westminster. The European elections Bill contains an implied displacement of democratic authority from Westminster to the new assembly, and it is not at all clear how the roles of home-based MPs and the occupants of the new mega-seats are to be conceived, as relating to each other in connection with the policies and instruments flowing from Brussels. The devolution Bills import an asymmetry into the House of Commons, which will become quasi-federal in respect of Scotland and Wales and remain unitary in respect of England. The British constitution's traditional indifference to schematism and logic will assist its adaptation to the new condition; but Parliament has not yet really inspected the consequences of that transformation. There is much of a fundamental character still to be examined in these measures, guillotine permitting.

If legislation were all, Parliament would be preoccupied throughout the next twelve months with the principles and niceties of constitutional reform in a not particularly partisan way. But legislation is very far from being all. Of-stage events will be attaching their own meaning to that pregnant piece of

TUC-speak "an orderly return to free collective bargaining." If there was any doubt that this year's wage round will stay at the heart of political affairs it ought to have been removed by the immediate effect upon confidence of the miners' ballot. The effect has shown up first in the market for stocks and shares and the movement of sterling. It will not be confined to those sensitive exchanges. The attitude of the miners and what follows from it in their own industry and others impinge on political confidence, among ministers, in the Opposition, and in the electorate. The Government has been lifted out of the electoral mud in the space of nine months by a process resembling levitation. It could be dropped in again with a thud.

Among the elements in its recovery have been grounds for hope that the rate of inflation really is going to go on going down, slight mitigation of the tax regime skilfully presented to create the impression of more to come, a real transformation in the external financial position of the country, an aura of Baldwin-esque solidity and sense diffused by the Prime Minister, and a wish to believe that the special Callaghan mixture of camaraderie, coercion and cunning can moderate the inordinate wage demands now associated with "free collective bargaining" without either provoking serious industrial unrest or rotting society by inflation. If events were to follow this path, the comfortable belief, little will remain of that political picture. The Liberals are more likely to break with the Government over wage inflation than over whatever does not happen about proportional representation. And apart from that, so serious a setback to his economic and political strategy might persuade the Prime Minister to run for an earlier dissolution of Parliament than he evidently contemplates as the session opens.

Charges against Mr Helms

From Lord George Brown
Sir, The column you printed on Wednesday (November 2) from Patrick Brogan, your Correspondent in Washington, on the question of Mr Helms' status in the court proceedings against him, greatly disturbed me.

Mr Helms, both as Director of the CIA and more recently as US Ambassador to Iran, has had a career as a public servant of which both he and his country should be greatly proud. That it should have ended this, I know, greatly distressing to him as it is to those of us who know his work and greatly valued his friendship.

More important, perhaps, the whole matter of the harassment, hounding and final criminal prosecution of such a public servant is worthy of much more mature consideration than Senator Church in Mr Brogan's quotation, or indeed your Correspondent himself in his final paragraph, seem to have given the subject.

Having carried for a short while my share of the political responsibility for this country's "secret" operations, I was always clear that any questions arose on them I or the Prime Minister would answer. The idea that one of my officers should be summoned and expected to "blow the gaff" on such necessarily highly political issues, would never have been accepted by me nor expected of them. They answered to and acted upon the decisions of their Political Masters at all times.

If what the CIA did was held to be wrong or needed investigation, those politically responsible should have answered. And then Mr Helms would never have been placed in a "position of conflict", as he put it to the court. In my view, once he was placed, he had little alternative but to do as he did—as any responsible Senator must have realised.

Sincerely,
GEORGE BROWN,
House of Lords,
November 2.

Unmarried women and the property laws

From Mr Tom Kay
Sir, We are writing to express our concern over the decision of the House of Lords in *White & Carter (Councils) Ltd v McGregor* (October 13, 1977), and *Canfield v Jenkins* (October 24), which we consider have substantial implications for the property rights of unmarried women.

We have substantial experience of dealing with a large number of cases in which unmarried women have been left with no means of support after the death of their partners. We have also submitted evidence to the Select Committee on violence in marriage in 1975 on the basis of this area of law. We sincerely hope that the House of Lords will have been able to take account of this evidence in reaching their decision.

We consider that the whole area of property law as it affects unmarried women and their families is in a very unsatisfactory state. It denies an unmarried woman, who often has the same responsibilities and difficulties as a married woman, virtually any means of legal protection or redress for herself against her cohabitee and/or father of her children in spite of the fact that her relationship may have lasted for many years.

We consider that the position of the unmarried woman is one particularly unfortunate symptom of the general inadequacy of legal rights and protection afforded to women in this country. We hope that the two recent Domestic Violence Act decisions will highlight the need for urgent reform of the whole area of law affecting the property rights of the unmarried woman, including the denial of protection to battered women whose home is not in their sole name.

Yours faithfully,
TOM KAY, Chairman,
Domestic Violence Committee,
Camden Community Law Centre,
146 Kentish Town Road, NW1,
October 26.

Church on the move

From Mr Gregory Macdonald
Sir, Cardinal Hume has returned from the fifth Roman synod—the subject of discussion was Christian education—to propound in *The Times* (October 29) a contemporary insight that the Church is best likened to the test of a round stone. It is on the move, pitched at different spots as the search for God and his promises goes on. Every few years the pilgrim Church pauses in the synod to take stock of where it is going.

The inescapable meaning of this Old Testament imagery is that in the view of His Eminence the Roman Church no longer invokes the Petrine title-deed that it is built upon a rock: it is a tent of one night pitched upon shifting sands. The Church is no longer the inflexible guardian of revelation, with divine authority to teach all nations. It is no longer a visible society with distinctive marks by which men may know it, but a nomadic people searching for landmarks in a desert.

This is indeed a fresh insight, a new perspective on nearly two thousand years of Christian history. Perhaps the difficulty will be to embody it in a scheme of religious education which also takes the New Testament into account and the unchanged belief of the Catholic faithful.

Yours,
GREGORY MACDONALD,
76 Cornhill,
Wimbledon, SW20,
October 31.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disruption of power supplies

From Professor G. P. C. Butler

Sir, Unannounced power cuts are bound to cause damage, to people and to property. It is to be hoped that a rally is being kept—of the limbs broken, the cars smashed, the lives which might have lasted longer than they did—because the cause has been completed, those responsible for the damage will acknowledge their responsibility. Or perhaps, in the jargon of present-day ruthlessness, they would prefer to "claim it".

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BUTLER,
10 Brock Street,
Bath,
Avon,
November 1.

From Mr J. B. S. Swallow

Sir, I have just returned from the hospital where my wife is recovering after an operation.

During my visit there the hospital, along with the surrounding neighbourhood, was plunged into darkness when the electricity supply failed. The hospital has no back-up facilities and therefore the lives of any patients dependent on the provision of electricity were immediately at risk.

Religious education

From the Headmaster of Malvern College

Sir, Few schoolmasters will be surprised by the findings of the Church of England survey on religious education (*The Times*, October 13).

Last winter I conducted a survey of religious opinion among 13 and 14-year-old boys and girls in independent schools around the country. The results of this survey confirm some but not all of the Church of England's findings. In independent schools there was little evidence of the extreme boredom reported by the church, but there was evidence that scepticism about the truth of Bible stories went alongside extreme gullibility for science fiction religion. Erich von Däniken's *Chariot of the Gods* and similar books have made a great impression on this age group. Boys and girls are happy to accept Elijah's departure in a chariot of fire as evidence of early space travel and see Jesus' ascension as just another bit of sci-fi.

Although many adults have sensibly resolved the old conflict between science and Christianity it remains a live issue with 13-year-olds. Many of them find the conflict in the teaching they receive in "science" and in "scripture". One boy in my survey wrote that he believed that "the world was created by science and not by God".

One can only conclude that the teaching both of Christianity and of science are to blame. At 13 few boys and girls appear to have any idea of the historical context in which the books of the Bible were written. They treat Genesis and the Gospels as if they expressed the same kind of truth. Despite the success of the new science courses, science is still taught with its old nineteenth-century certitude. Twentieth-century science has reached the schools but twentieth-century scientific attitudes have not. Very few boys in my survey appreciated the uncertainty of science or gained from the excitement that things are not what they seem to be.

It is not time for a thorough reappraisal of our teaching of Christianity in schools? Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ROGERS,
Malvern College,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

British-German links

From Mr Max Adenauer and others

Sir, We are citizens of one of the countries which found least favour with the Treaty of Versailles. We are concerned about the cultural and educational relations which are to be sacrificed for the sake of short-term political assessments, arrived at from a standpoint of current self-interest. We see British and German relations as being a great asset to both countries and we see the relations with Germany and other countries as crucial to it.

Yours faithfully,
MAX ADENAUER,
Member of the Board of Directors of the Rhein-Westfälische Bank and former Town Clerk of Cologne.

MARTIN BRUCK,
Director General of the (German) Sciences Centre, Bonn,
UDO KLAUSA,
President of the German Association for Europa Nostra and former Director General of the Rhine-Ruhr Region.

WILHELM UNGER,
Chairman of the Cologne Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and Cult. Editor of the *Kölnner Stadt-Anzeiger*.

MARY FREIFRAU v. SCHILLING,
Secretary General and Member of the Board of the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft e. V. Cologne, Klarenbachstr. 152, 5000 Cologne.

Dealing with hijackers

From Professor Bernard Smythe

Sir, Without wishing to choose sides between Mr Dicken and Professor Laurence on the feasibility of devising a substance capable of "putting to sleep" aircraft passengers and their would-be hijackers, may I suggest that the debate is based upon a false premise, i.e. that hijackers are sane when unconscious?

While this may be true of a hijacker relying on a hand gun, it is not true if a hand grenade is used. If the hijacker removes the pin before revealing his intentions, it would be fatal to all concerned if anything caused him to relax his grip on the spring-loaded handle since his grip is all that prevents the grenade from exploding. Similarly, it is just as easy to construct an electric detonator in which the circuit is completed by a button being released rather than pressed.

A further problem, not so far discussed, is the difficulty of making an operational aircraft secure however effective the screening of passengers at airport terminals. The opportunities available to ground staff to "plant" the impediments of hijacking are almost endless. While the positive vetting of technicians may go some way to diminish this danger, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to apply similar safeguards to the more transient labour force used to service the aircrafts catering for domestic requirements at airports around the world. Since such workers have access to galleys and toilets which are not inaccessible to the hijacker/passenger, the risk is very great.

I have no desire to increase the fears of the travelling public but I think it is important to recognize

that technology offers few easy answers to this problem and probably none which technology itself cannot overcome. If there is an answer, it would seem to me to lie in the sphere of international agreement and cooperation in dealing with hijackers after the event.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD SMYTHE,
13 Perens Close, The Sands,
Durham City.

From Mrs Sinclair Hood

Sir, I wonder if it is generally known that some patients in the Oxford area were unable to receive radiotherapy for various cancers on one day this week because of voltage reductions in the electricity supply. There is a heavy burden of responsibility upon those who make the decision to work to rule.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL HOOD,
The Old Vicarage,
Great Milton,
Oxford,
November 2.

century certitude. Twentieth-century science has reached the schools but twentieth-century scientific attitudes have not. Very few boys in my survey appreciated the uncertainty of science or gained from the excitement that things are not what they seem to be.

It is not time for a thorough reappraisal of our teaching of Christianity in schools? Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ROGERS,
Malvern College,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

From Mr Ivor Powell

Sir, Anybody trying to teach any form of religion in a London comprehensive school does not require guidance so much as deserves the deep compassion of all of us.

I have taught RE. I can assure you that the only lessons meeting with approval are those dealing in the wilder aspects of the supernatural, demonology, human sacrifice.

If the attention of the reader appears to higher truth is not fixed, the teacher may expect (as happened regularly to a reverend gentleman in West London) to have to flee the classroom in a hell of a hurry.

One can only conclude that the teaching both of Christianity and of science are to blame. At 13 few boys and girls appear to have any idea of the historical context in which the books of the Bible were written. They treat Genesis and the Gospels as if they expressed the same kind of truth. Despite the success of the new science courses, science is still taught with its old nineteenth-century certitude. Twentieth-century science has reached the schools but twentieth-century scientific attitudes have not. Very few boys in my survey appreciated the uncertainty of science or gained from the excitement that things are not what they seem to be.

It is not time for a thorough reappraisal of our teaching of Christianity in schools? Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ROGERS,
Malvern College,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

From Mr Arthur Grogan
Sir, Today's letter (November 1) from the President of the Royal Academy reminds me that the Academy is asked for a collection of "diploma" pictures, painted by academicians, which used to be shown on the top floor of Burlington House.

Are these pictures so bad in quality that in conclusion that the Academy is asked for them to be seen? Might they not be just the thing for Somerset House, that is historically connected with the building, of relatively limited appeal to the general public, of limited worth so that if they go up in smoke the loss won't be too great? Might the Academy also consider returning the chimney-piece by Wilton and the ceiling paintings by Angelica Kauffman, I think, which were removed from Somerset House a century ago?

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR GROGAN,
Standon,
East Grinstead, Sussex,
November 1.

Uffington White Horse

From Mr John Piper, CH, and others

Sir, We understand that during the coming winter session Lord Kenet is to raise in the House of Lords the increasing problem of the Ridgeway as a whole. We would like to stress the singular beauty of the White Horse and emphasize that the preservation of its setting is essential to the endurance of this beauty, quite apart from its archaeological significance.

The Ridgeway may once have stretched from Devon to the Wash. It is older than the Via Appia and its monuments encompass more civilizations. It is a document of the early history of England that cannot be moved to library, museum or gallery. The White Horse, half way along its course and inseparable from it is vernal and timeless, and as indigenous yet international as the Celts themselves. Dare we hope that the ingenuity and good will of landowners and public authorities can between them preserve its sense of solitude without restricting reasonable access for an increasingly sympathetic public?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PIPER,
HUGH CASSON,
ESHER,
GEOFFREY JELICOE,
HENRY MOORE,
BEN NICHOLSON,
KENNETH ROBINSON,
Pavley Bottom Farmhouse,
near Banley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

MOSCOW SILENCES A WESTERN DISSIDENT

For their sixtieth anniversary celebrations in Moscow the Soviet leaders obviously want a display of confidence in their own achievement, of assurance in the victorious character of their doctrine and, so far as the delegations from other communist parties can demonstrate it, the obedience that can still be given to Moscow as the centre of a living, international movement. Such reassurance is particularly welcome to leaders whose memories and allegiances run far back to the early days when the flag of proletarian dictatorship was first hoisted. They know that this is the last important anniversary they will attend; they badly need the right kind of acclaim.

From some visitors they had this in full measure. Herr Herbert Mies of the West German party was ready to declare that their attitude to the Soviet Union was for every communist the touchstone, nothing would make his party change that view, neither right-wing opportunists nor Maoists. To men who contained the Yugoslav dissidence, who could dismiss Albania as too trifling and

odd to matter, and who have come through a struggle with China to find Peking's own international communist following far smaller and less significant than their own, this was indeed warming stuff. And there were many others to take up their allotted seven minutes of time to render their homage to the capital of world communism.

Alas! that the occasion could not pass without black clouds passing over the meeting. There was Signor Berlinguer from Italy quietly and pointedly to make the case for democracy as a source of power and for cooperation with non-communist parties. Reservations came also from the British party and that, too, met with a cool reception from the ranks of the presidium. But it was Señor Santiago Carrillo from Spain, the most pungent spokesman for Eurocommunism, who was too much for the Soviet leaders. Having handed in a copy of his speech for translation on his arrival in Moscow on Wednesday he was told he would not be called, although, as he pointed out, leaders of tiny parties of no significance at all were

given their share at the rostrum.

If anything could confirm the underlying loss of confidence in the leadership it would be this crude refusal of an expected courtesy to Señor Carrillo. He is a man who protests his faithfulness to communist ideals, who is no stranger to communist gatherings in Moscow—he attended the fiftieth anniversary celebrations in Leningrad in 1967—and has no point to argue that has not been argued already by the Italian party. Certainly Señor Carrillo believes that his view of the communist role is one appropriate to all communist parties in western Europe and no doubt he thinks that they will be the more successful when they all share it. But Mr Brezhnev clearly fears that it is in eastern Europe as well as western that the ruling parties will more and more come to favour Señor Carrillo's message. And so Señor Carrillo had to be silenced. It is the only way of dealing with critics known to Moscow. It exposes the weakness of the Soviet leaders on an occasion when they were anxious to conceal any such thing.

HANDOUTS FOR HOME BUYERS

It is usually a good thing for the major parties to see housing issues in broadly the same way: sudden lurches of policy at each change of power do more harm than good in a market whose natural rhythms are so slow. But it is not so good if it means that parties vie with one another to catch the votes of those who do best out of the current system, or aspire to join their number. One measure outlined in the Queen's Speech yesterday comes dangerously close to falling into the second category. The Conservatives have for some time favoured public assistance to those wishing to buy homes, but unable to stand on their own feet. A policy document last year suggested a pound contributed for every two pounds saved by some first-time buyers towards their deposits.

Such measures would be popular, and helpful too, at least in the short term. But there has been too much official action in the housing sphere that set

out to help one category of householder, but turned out to cause the distortions in the wider pattern of housing provision. Similar initiatives deserve to be created warily. The general tendency of such policies (like the growth of indiscriminate subsidy to council tenants in the 1970s, and the earlier attempts to keep mortgage interest rates down) have had the effect of assisting those who are already satisfactorily housed at the expense of those who are not.

To some extent the new plan can claim to compensate for that tendency. The boom in house prices in the late 'sixties made it far more difficult for new buyers to enter the market; existing owners were able to afford the higher prices because their own houses had shared in the general appreciation. When house prices became steadier, inflation and high interest rates kept the initial cost of taking on a mortgage high (owners, again, found the real cost of

their repayments rapidly diminishing). These initial obstacles to entry, especially frustrating to would-be purchasers who could confidently expect to increase their earnings in a few years.

Since it is in general both popular and desirable that more people should own their own homes, it may seem an excellent move to give newcomers a leg up. But when the high rate of subsidy (almost impossible to withdraw once bestowed) is a serious problem in both public and private sectors, another subsidy may ease the symptom while making the disease worse. Assistance of the kind proposed must be carefully restricted if it is not simply to raise the price of the kind of house that new buyers look for. All the difficulties mentioned have not prevented the proportion of owner-occupied houses from rising between 1971 and 1976 from 52 per cent to about 55 per cent—a rapid advance in the circumstances.

Security of Israel

From Mr A. P. Warshaw

Sir, As a Zionist and Jew privileged to have lived in Israel for some years, I had the opportunity of making close friends with a number of Palestinians and like Mr Hammani (*The Times*, November 1) believe that peace and hence Israel's security will only be achieved when the Palestinians are given a state of their own on the West Bank and Gaza (with special arrangements being made to prevent the redivision of Jerusalem). However, can Mr Hammani assure me that such a state will forever terrorism and all territorial ambitions in pre-1967 Israel, and be prepared to demonstrate this by agreeing to remain demilitarized?

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY WARSHAW,
9 Hooch Road, NW2,
November 1.

Coeducational schools

From the Head Master of Dauntsey's School

Sir, As in the far-flung fringes of Suffolk, parliamentary legislation is taken pretty seriously in the depths of Wilstead, and like the headmaster of Framlingham College (who, appropriately, was once on the staff here) I too, am the proud possessor of a Transitional Exemption Order.

However, the Equal Opportunities Commission does not have a monopoly of these apparently rare documents, and HMC Direct Grants Schools such as Dauntsey's on the road to coeducational independence have to apply to the Secretary of State as the Department of Education and Science. But it takes time.

Since the school was to become coeducational in September 1976, an application for a Transitional Exemption Order was made a fort-

nigh after the DES Joint Circular on the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 was published on January 20, 1976. What I took to be a mystified silence ensued until April 6 when a short note from the department informed me that "we are not able to reply to your letter but we hope to be able to do so soon". The girls duly arrived in September 1976 and we struggled on without the Transitional Exemption Order until it arrived on February 23, 1977—one year and 18 days after my original application!

Perhaps other schools would like to stand up with Framlingham and Dauntsey's but they are still bent double in a pretty lengthy pipeline. Yours faithfully,
G. K. KING-REYNOLDS,
Head Master,
Dauntsey's School,
Weylington,
near Devizes, Wiltshire.

Foreign Report

trampled on the unwritten rules of fishery disputes. And all, during the past century, "cod war" Icelandic gunboats fired barely a shot against British trawlers escorted by warships.

But the Argentine navy never stopped to cut the Soviet nets as it charged through the night issuing peremptory orders to halt and opening up with warning cannonades.

Even if defence of fabulous unexploited fishing beds was at stake—and Patagonian trawlers could yield an estimated 3.5 million tons annually worth \$500m—the action appears impulsive.

Perhaps, after Argentina's years of decline, the military junta considered diplomatic and commercial considerations secondary to vigorous defence of national sovereignty.

It was Admiral Emilio Massera, navy commander and Junta member, who gave the order to sink the Bulgarian trawler if necessary, "because the defence of our sovereignty is at stake." The Secretary of the Navy, who treated the fleeing trawlers with non-high-explosive shells, which simply punched five-inch holes in their sides. But the next high explosive shells were already in the Argentine guns, and a navy jet laden with incendiary bombs ravine up on the nearby aircraft carrier 425 De Mayo.

Since the trawlers Aurelia, 3,500 tons, and Ofelia, 2,500 tons, probably carried nearly 100 men each, it seems that a maritime massacre was narrowly averted. A hovering Atlantic storm would have made rescuing survivors extremely difficult.

Argentina's naval commanders are not usually considered impulsive, so their present fighting mood could hold a message for other coastal wars raging in the South Atlantic. Of the two candidates, Chile seems the principal target following Britain's recent agreement to discuss Argentina's claim to the disputed Falkland Islands.

It may prove significant that the sinking of the Soviet trawler was an Argentine marines backed by paval guns, submarines, helicopters and jets stormed on to a near by South Atlantic island in a major amphibious exercise.

Perhaps the Soviet block trawlers would have been sunk in the Falkland exercise, but they may have just blundered into an Argentine task force hyped up to practise for a do-or-die mission.

For the navy is thought to be incensed with its Chilean counterpart over the disputed rights to the islands off Tierra del Fuego, and a potentially explosive confrontation may



landings on South American islands thus acquire an obvious and ominous significance.

Though the Buenos Aires evening newspaper *Cronica* is often comical in its extreme nationalism, it may have spelled out the message to Chile this week. It quoted an Argentine marine as saying during the amphibious exercise that "Strange things are happening these days. It seems there are people who think we are going to let them steal our territory . . . but we have discussions with our officers. We say: 'No, no, we know what we have to fight and die for.'"

Andrew Tarnowski

Andrew Tarnowski

Many conceded the villages would benefit, but they said the Israelis' motives were to tighten their political hold on the territory and their economic gain. "The Jews want to supply electricity so they can sell us refrigerators and washing machines and charge us for the current," a worker commented.

Low opinions of Israeli morality were elicited by a drawing showing Arabs coming upon Israeli families on the beach. The Arabs were modestly clad by modern western standards but the Arabs expressed disgust.

"Look at those harlots," one said. "Let's get out of here." Another remarked: "Nothing shamelessly with women without us. We will never forgive them. I'd slit the throat of any who would betide like them."

Some of the younger Arabs were more tolerant. "They have their customs and we have ours," was typical of this group, while the few older, critical. One comment was: "All over the world people swim like that but the Arabs are primitive and reject it because of blind religious fanaticism."

Professing Amir said interaction in the factories had on the whole reinforced Arab prejudices. They were more convinced than ever that the Israelis were expansionist and wanted to annex their territories. While they appreciated their pay and their homes, they felt the Israelis were motivated by their own interests and did not deserve gratitude.

Yet the psychologist said the attitudes could be changed somewhat if farmers, shop stewards and others in lower managerial positions were properly instructed.

He said the strongest criticisms in the study came from workers in a plant where they interacted with the Israelis but lack of sensitivity, called the workers by numbers. "There were so many Ahmads and Muhammads." It was explained.

Some Arabs were somewhat more positively inclined, came from plants where they were offered breaks in five times a day as required by Muslim law and were invited to company outings.

But Professor Amir says these extremes are not significant statistically.

Moshe Brilliant

great demand and that the majority of "divorced" are seeking country cottages (dachas); the bottom of want is dachas with an orchard, the rest seem content in buying a sphere in or half of a dacha.

Collectors offer "good money" for tsarist coins which are apparently in great demand, and Mosfilm Studio wants urgently dinner jackets, top hats, fans, ladies' hats with feathers etc. 1930s clothing for a forthcoming film.

The interest in musical instruments is only surpassed by the demand for Western stereo equipment and Japanese motorcycles. Second-hand furniture and second-hand fridges feature in several columns showing that the growing demand for consumer goods cannot be met by Soviet industry as yet.

The "Barter" column is filled with offers from owners of smaller flats seeking more spacious abodes, but there are not many offered either for sale or for exchange.

In the "Tuition" column a lady offers to teach you English "in a very short space of time" and a multi-lingual Muscovite offers tuition in Japanese.

What is conspicuously missing is the "Lonely Hearts" column. Neither the supplements nor the provincial press seem prepared to establish a marriage mart along Western lines, but an experiment in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the organ of the official writers' union, has recently shown the tremendous interest in such a forum.

"Educated humanist aged 48 seeks the acquaintance of young blonde increased in classical music", read one of the adverts in the weekly and elicited hundreds of replies.

"Tall Russian woman technical construction worker, aged 32, with a small child would like to meet a jovial, athletic man who does not drink alcohol" is another advertiser indicating that not even the class-conscious workers consider advertising for a mate in a "Lonely Hearts" column a sure sign of bourgeois decadence.

But then advertising is no longer a dirty word in Russia.

Gabriel Ronan

has to be made in the throat, and the laryngoesch through the pharynx (usually a hidden scarf or collar). The normal speech is not so due to the removal of chords as to the lack of stream for the mouth to modify. This is a prospect for anyone, indeed, for anyone with an outpatients will be asked to come to for an operation within a little enough time to terms with a diagnosis of normal speech. It is possible, however, he underwent a day or so of the operation and so the time to see the person who will teach back again afterwards. It is to arrange for him an experienced laryngologist—someone who has had the operation of the pharynx, and that is possible without a scar.

Oesophageal speech is a flow of air from rather than from the function of the tongue and palate is unnecessary depends on swallow and regulate in controlling the speed of the air in the training. Naturally enough attempts tend natural and bizarre for that reason encourage patients laryngectomy clients will find other experience of problems of speech. Often men who have succeeded the technique necessary encourage someone in a

has mastered speech, and is now speaking positively. The speech relies on the stomach (the lungs, but the lips, tongue, and throat, changed. Suction learning to expel air and the volume and flow, and this. The persistent cough, early on sound under, and it is that hospitals to join to with loughs the practical esophageal meeting patients provided in learning segment for a good of post-operative depression. mixing with other people understand is a great morale," says Dr. Macdonald. It is encouraging the experts who had operations many years ago have perfected their skills. Two years after his operation at St George's Hospital, he is back at work serving in a shop, and he no difficulties in everyday life. The secret of his new voice is volume: it is no way esophageal speech produce a shout, so conversation can be difficult crowded places. Occasional children on a bus will mirror his flat, almost robotic but otherwise people are content and friendly.

Laryngeal cancer is and, unlike lung cancer, is no sign that it is becoming common. There are 1,500 new cases each year.

"Just as those who are most to be pitied are those who cannot hear their own voices," says the otopharyngologist, "the work of the laryngologist is to find a way of life for those who are left speechless when cancer has taken control of the larynx. In this, the laryngologist can look forward to a complete return to normal life. Further information on laryngectomies and laryngectomy clubs is available from the Laryngectomy Association, 38 Ecclesdown Square, Victoria, London, SW1.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Consultant

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

ALSO ON PAGE 8

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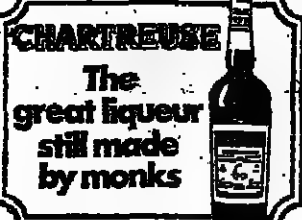
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Growing fears of industrial unrest drive share prices down for ninth day

By Our Financial Staff

For the ninth day running share prices fell back on the London stock market, as big and small investors sold heavily on the prospect of a winter of industrial unrest.

The FT ordinary share index lost another 45 points, or around 9 per cent, since Monday of last week, with almost half that decline coming since the news of the market vote against a productivity deal.

Sterling's sudden plunge hit the government bond market, and though selling was not reported to be heavy it was not enough to lower long-term issues by as much as £2.75 at one stage. Some "cheap" buying late in the day lifted prices a little and by the close the average fall was about £2.00.

The equity market is now in the ambivalent position of attracting selling when sterling goes up or down. Many investors view the prospect of a strong pound with some trepidation since it may have the impact on the major exporters against a none-too-promising outlook for corporate profits in general.

Against this a fall in the pound like that experienced yesterday is also not welcome, and dealers report that with the exception of "bargain hunting" at the lower levels buyers of any size are extremely hard to find.

Most jobbers have "long" books at present, but have been conspicuously unsuccessful over the last few days in attracting support by marking down.

With the events of 1974 still firmly in their minds, market men fear above all else a confrontation between the miners and the Government.

On a brighter note there was talk last night that many of the leading industrial shares are looking oversold and that today could see the start of a minor technical rally. What they are looking for is a period of consolidation in the new, lower trading range with 500 as the top limit on the index.

The anxiety on the labour front and the fall in sterling combined to unsettle the gilt market, too. After a steady opening prices began to lose ground and by mid-afternoon the rate of decline had accelerated.

rated to extend losses among longer dated stocks to as much as £2. A rally towards the close of the day cut the final net losses to around £2. Falls in short dated stocks ran to as much as £1.

Gold soared: The price of gold jumped by \$3 an ounce in London to close at \$164.1. This is the best closing price since June, 1975.

The gold market has become steadily more bullish in the past few months, linked to the weakness of the dollar and general exchange rate instability. The good price obtained at the IMF auction on Wednesday buoyed the market.

In Washington the IMF said seven bidders were successful at the auction, when \$24,800 ounces were sold at an average price of \$161.86 an ounce. They were: Bank Leu of Zurich, Dresdner Bank International of Luxembourg, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank of Frankfurt, Samuel Montagu and Co of London, and the Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland, both of Zurich.

Financial Editor, page 21

Bank policy criticized as the pound drops

Continued from page 1

New York market came in still more pounds were offloaded. Dealers, who reported almost chaotic market conditions at some points, were critical of the Bank of England's policy. They felt that the authorities should have intervened when there were no willing buyers of sterling and the rate was being driven down swiftly.

But the Bank and the Treasury said on Monday, when announcing the change in intervention policy, that they had become unable to preserve stability without jeopardizing official money targets. They are steadfastly refusing to give the market a hint of what new level they are prepared to see for the pound.

For a market used to clear management of the rate by the authorities the experience of a free float is very unsettling.

Since the government would

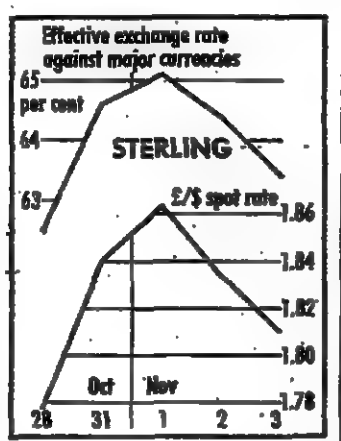
like to see the pound's value back at the level of last spring, which is well below even the bottom of last year's fall, it is unlikely that it will give much support to the rate at a higher level.

The huge amount of money which has come into Britain in the last few months, much of it in search of a quick profit, could easily flow out again if holders of sterling decide that the pound has touched its peak for the time being.

Critics of the government's decision to let the rate go up—including many members of the CBI—now feel vindicated.

If the Government had hung on a little longer there might have been no need for the intervention of the pound this week. The Government has managed to get the worst of all worlds, they believe.

All those who deal in foreign currencies, which includes most



large companies with overseas business, now have to take a view of the right sterling rate with no guidance from the authorities.

This is bound to lead to instability while the market tests the range. The large inflows of speculative hot money into Britain while the rate was being held down has increased potential instability.

However, the current account surplus should buoy the rate.

Shortfall of £1,000m expected in government spending for year

By Melvyn Westlake

Government spending in the current financial year will almost certainly fall significantly below the target of £100,000m, according to the latest estimates. Present indications are that the extent of this underspending could be not far short of £1,000m.

This is about the same order of magnitude as public authorities' expenditure fell short of planned targets under the new system of cash limits when these were imposed for the first time during the last financial year, which ended in March.

But it remains unclear what proportion of the latest underspending falls within those areas—roughly two thirds—of expenditure covered by cash limits for 1977-78.

A second year of underspending by public authorities is bound to increase misgivings in some sections of the Labour Party about the appropriateness of cash limits as a means of controlling expenditure. There has already been much criticism about the inherent sensitivity in the way that cash limits operate.

What must cause particular concern is that the unplanned reduction in spending that is now expected this year will fall disproportionately heavily on public sector investment at a time when investment in the private sector is proving to be very disappointing.

The Treasury referred cryptically to the accumulating

evidence of a shortfall in spending during 1977-78 in the economic forecasts presented with the special measures announced last week by the Chancellor. These forecasts provide some clue to the underspending, but do not show the scale of what is happening because figures for public expenditure on goods and services were given at 1970 prices.

When converted to current prices, it becomes clear that the Treasury has now revised down its estimates of spending this year by an amount not much under £1,000m.

This is not much less than the deliberate cuts which caused such agony to Cabinet ministers last December when such action had to be taken at the behest of the International Monetary Fund in return for its multi-billion dollar loan to Britain.

Moreover, if inflation this year proves to be higher than the Treasury expected a few months ago, the real cut in the volume of government spending could be greater.

This is because a rise in the cost of the goods and services purchased by the Government will, under the cash limits system, lead to a drop in the volume of such purchases.

Thus, in cash terms, public authorities will almost certainly be £1,000m in 1976-77, while higher-than-expected inflation led to a fall of £3,500m in volume terms, according to some estimates.

The reason for unplanned

cuts taking place, even in cash terms, is that under the new system there is an inevitable tendency for civil servants and local councils to err on the side of caution. As a result all the errors are in the same direction, instead of cancelling each other out, as sometimes happened before.

MPs will have their first opportunity to examine civil servants about this and other matters relating to Mr Healey's latest measures on Monday when the general subcommittee of the Expenditure Committee holds its first meeting of the new parliamentary session.

The subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham West, will be questioning senior Treasury civil servants. These seem likely to include Mr John Anson, the deputy secretary on the public services side, and Ms Patricia Brown, Under Secretary in charge of the general expenditure analysis group.

To assist it, the subcommittee will have a paper written by an economic adviser, Mr Terry Ward of the Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge University.

As well as pressing for explanations about government underspending, MPs on the subcommittee will almost certainly be anxious to explore the Treasury's estimates of the likely employment effect of the Chancellor's measures and his decision to allow the pound to float.

Barclays names non-executive chairman in division of roles at merchant bank offshoot

By Ronald Pullen

Barclays Bank has decided to "play safe" by appointing a clearing banker from within the group to be the new chairman of the merchant banking offshoot.

Replacing Mr Charles Ball, whose unexpected resignation was announced in the summer ostensibly because of differences over medium-term lending policy, will be Mr Deryk Weyer.

Mr Weyer, who is 52, at present has been with Barclays 36 years and is vice-chairman of the bank, with special responsibilities for finance and planning, but also of the merchant bank. He is to take over as non-executive chairman from November 30.

Barclays is looking for a managing director to assume responsibility for the day to day running of the merchant bank. Two or three merchant bankers have already been approached and expressed their willingness to join but "we did not think they were quite right for the job".

Commenting on the decision to split the functions of chairman and managing director, both of which roles Mr Ball held, Mr Weyer explained that he did not believe in the "supernatural concept" and that the risks in leading these days were such that two heads were better than one.

Mr Weyer also paid tribute to Mr Ball for the way he "has put the name of Barclays Merchant Bank firmly on the map in the corporate advisory sphere".

Asked about the possibility of an ex-gratia payment to Mr Ball, Mr Weyer said that, as he did not expect there to be any difficulty in settling this, "the question of payments does not arise".

Although the final terms of Mr Ball's departure have yet to be finalized, Mr Weyer said that he did not expect there to be any difficulty in settling this.

Explaining the future philosophy of the merchant bank, he said that there were constraints on any such operation working within the clearing bank structure. But he

thought that the difficulties had been "greatly over-estimated" and that in any case the deposit base of the clearing bank gave them a huge advantage over the accepting houses.

In future, Barclays Merchant Bank will concentrate on three main areas—corporate advisory services, medium-term lending and acceptance credits. To fill one of the gaps that has been indicated in evidence to the Wilson Committee, Barclays also announced yesterday that it was extending the period of medium-term loans to more than 10 years, although in the current lending climate there have so far been no takers for this facility.

Barclays is recruiting to strengthen the corporate finance side of the merchant bank. Results for the year to the end of September will be announced shortly, and will show a one-third rise in pre-tax profits and a balance-sheet total of some £550m, thereby putting the Barclays group into the top four merchant banks in the City.



Mr Deryk Weyer: two heads are better than one.

Simplified proposals on inflation accounting welcomed by CBI

By Nicholas Hirst

A third attempt at producing a workable system of accounting for inflation is made, by the accounting profession today.

Publication by the Accounting Standards Committee of the profession's rule-making body of "an interim recommendation" on inflation accounting is intended to have produced a system which will be broadly acceptable to accountants, industry, government, and the public. The first indications are that it will be.

It is the first time that ASC has produced an "interim recommendation". The simplicity and flexibility of its proposals have been welcomed by the chairmanship of Mr William Hyde, chief accountant of Oxford University, are a result of the controversy evoked by previous attempts to bring in a system of inflation accounting.

The first provisional standard by ASC—using the current purchase power system—foundered under government disapproval.

The second—the Sandilands report produced by a committee under

the chairmanship of Mr Douglas Morphet, which was published as an Exposure Draft for comment before being made into a standard—foundered through opposition within the profession and industry.

Mr Hyde's guidelines were an attempt to rescue something from the mess resulting from an Institute of Chartered Accountants vote in July against compulsory implementation of any system of current cost accounting.

The new recommendation by the ASC is that adjustments to historic figures produced in the Hyde document should be made by all companies with a quotation on the Stock Exchange for accounting periods ending December 31, in a prominent separate statement.

The council of the Stock Exchange has applauded the work by ASC to issue an interim recommendation.

A welcoming statement has been issued too by the Confederation of British Industry, but both bodies are cautious in their approach to the Hyde proposal for a "gearing" adjustment to take account of

the effect of inflation on debt financing.

However, as the Stock Exchange recognized, the ASC recommendation itself acknowledges that there are substantial differences within the profession and industry about how to reflect "gearing" adjustments. The guidelines state:

"Companies are not discouraged from following their own methods, providing these are disclosed in a note to the statement."

The CBI said that no controversy over "gearing" should be allowed to delay the implementation of the Hyde proposals, and the Stock Exchange said: "The Accounting Standards Committee have chosen a sensible approach to this problem and welcome the recommendation as a whole."

But the biggie United Kingdom accountancy firms have already committed themselves to supporting the initiative by the ASC, which resulted in the Hyde proposals, and they would be urging clients to produce the information as soon as possible.

Sun Alliance buys Rank properties for £28m

By Richard Allan

Rank Organisation is selling 11 British properties to the Sun Alliance insurance group for a total of £28m cash.

The properties comprise nine freehold and two long leasehold, all of which have been developed in the past 15 years and include the Barclaycard Centre in Northampton and the Parade shopping centre at Swindon.

Rank yesterday would say only that the sum involved represented an excess over book value, but outside estimates put the surplus at as much as £8m.

The deal is in line with Rank's policy of selectively running down a worldwide property portfolio, which had a book worth of just under £200m at the latest balance sheet, mainly with a view to cutting back indebtedness.

Total borrowings amount to around £300m, with two thirds of this total overseas, and it is understood that the group is anxious to cut back the foreign debts by as much as £100m to bring them more into line with assets in the United States and Canada.

The group is expected to make further headway in this respect through the sale of its Canadian cinema interests. The asking price for these is believed to be over £17m.

The United Kingdom transaction follows an earlier acquisition by Sun Alliance of a small block of shop units in Edinburgh from Rank Organisation. The latest deal will bring Sun Alliance's property commitment for 1977 and 1978 to about £57m.

Carter aide reaffirms 'tight budget' aim

From Frank Vogt

Washington, Nov 3

Increases in public spending, possibly of less than 2 per cent, will be included in the 1978/79 American budget which President Carter will announce in January.

The projected deficit will be smaller than the estimated \$60,000m (£33,000m) total for the current year.

Mr James McIntyre, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, assured a business conference in Florida that the President was determined to hold down public spending growth and put forward a "tight budget" for President Carter had not wavered from his goal of balancing the budget in 1981.

Mr McIntyre also affirmed that the President was remaining firm about the need to hold total spending to less than 21 per cent of gross national product. He had told every department of the Government and every agency "hold spending down. Watch every penny".

There have been indications recently that President Carter was drawing away from his balanced budget commitment and that the budget in January, likely to involve substantial tax-cutting plans, might produce a record high deficit.

Mr McIntyre, whose influence in the White House is considerable and who was Mr Carter's budget chief in the Georgia state government, appears determined to continue Mr Ross's battle against

Wholesale prices in US rise sharply

From Our United States Economic Correspondent

Washington, Nov 3

America suffered the sharpest monthly gain in wholesale prices for six months in September, the Department of Labour announced today.

The announcement came just as Dr Charles Schultz, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, announced a television interview in which he said that the inflation rate would fall below 6 per cent in 1978.

The wholesale price index rose on a seasonally-adjusted basis by 0.8 per cent in the previous month the index registered a 0.5 per cent advance, which was the sharpest gain seen since a 1.1 per cent rise in April.

Dr Schultz commented that it was going to be difficult to bring the inflation rate below 6 per cent. Some Administration officials admit that rates of 6 per cent or more are most likely to prevail in 1979, too.

They concede that it increasingly appears the Administration was unrealistic earlier this year in setting an inflation target for late 1979 of 4 per cent.

The wholesale index has increased by 5.9 per cent over the last year to 196.3 (1967=100). The trend so far this year has been exceptionally erratic in line with the volatility of farm and processed food prices.

For example, farm product prices registered a 2.4 per cent gain in September, after five months of substantial declines, which in turn followed considerable increases.

EEC will impose quotas if textile import talks fail

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

An attempt was made by the Government, yesterday, to allay fears in Britain's textile and clothing industries that the European Commission was adopting a hard attitude in negotiating aimed at the limitation of textile and clothing imports into the Community from the beginning of next year.

Under the terms of the Commission's negotiating mandate, quota coverage will be considerably more comprehensive than is provided for under the provisions of the existing MFA in relation to particular products, and to individual supplying countries.

Under the present MFA, the United Kingdom has secured quota arrangements covering about 75 per cent of textile and clothing imports from the main low cost sources.

In the case of the most sensitive areas of imported products, which include cotton yarn, knitted shirts and jeans, the quota coverage is more than 90 per cent.

15 years of growth

Record pre-tax profits of £5.61 million for the year to 30 June 1977 are reported by Mr F. V. Waller, Chairman of Adwest Group. An increase on the previous year's figure has been achieved for the 15th year in succession.

Following the one-for-six Rights Issue a dividend increase of 29 per cent is forecast for next year.

Copies of the Annual Report containing the Chairman's Statement to shareholders, are available from the Secretary, Adwest Group Limited, Reading, RG5 4SN.

Adwest Group

Automotive, Electrical, Agricultural, Industrial and Engineering Products

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, Nov 3

A 16m rand (about £10.6m) loan issue for Transkei, South Africa's independent Bantustan, has been arranged, but at rates considerably higher than normal semi-gilt levels.

The issue is by two loans, one for 10 years at an all-in rate of 12.5 per cent, and the other five years at 12.17 per cent. This compares, for instance, with a recent Escom (Electricity Supply Commission) issue at 11.8 per cent all-in for 24-year stock.

A capital market expert said: "Transkei has to pay above the odds in the same way that South Africa has to pay a premium on the London market."

Central Merchant Bank has secured underwriting for the issue by a number of financial institutions.

Realizing the laser beam's potential, page 21

New chief at PO tells of plan to lift standards

Improvements in the performance of the Post Office Corporation were promised yesterday by Sir William Barlow, its new full-time chairman. He said he would lead an attack on declining standards with the help of a new board which is to include employee directors.

Sir William, who has left his higher-paid position as chairman of ballbearing manufacturers Ransome, Jelf and Ransome, Hoffman & Ransome, told the Post Office job, says he has been inundated with opinions. Complaints outnumbered compliments.

He has told the 41,500 staff: "Whether this is justified must be matter of opinion, but what is absolutely clear to me is that if we could give a better service and go out of our way to tell people that is what we are trying to do, the business prospects of the Post Office would improve to the mutual benefit of employees and customers alike."

He adds: "In this country these days there is widespread acceptance of mediocrity and declining standards of service. With the advantages possessed by the Post Office, coupled with management and enthusiasm, we should be able to reverse this trend and set an example by giving a better service to the public."

Yesterday, Sir William met the press and emphasized that all those he had so far met in the postal service and telecommunications enterprise had a general desire to give better service. The test would be in obtaining this and giving the public value for money.

He recognized there had been many improvements in recent years, such as in long distance telephone services. He was a professional manager and would help Post Office workers achieve the improvements they wanted.

Asked what improvements, Sir William replied that perhaps the Post Office could do better in the delivery of letters and on telephone faults. But it was fair for him to gather facts and opinions before being too specific.

He said he approached the structure of the new board with interest and enthusiasm in spite of his past experience in private industry. (There are to be seven employee directors alongside seven management executives, two consumer directors and three non-executive independent members.)

As chairman, he would stress that fellow directors were in the boardroom with duties wider than pushing sectional interests.

Sir William describes the Carter report on the Post Office, as an interesting document "containing good suggestions as well as some impractical ones. He was in favour of the idea of splitting the corporation. It would introduce an element of competition between two prime methods of communications.

But it would take some time to reach such a point—at best two and a half years.

Maurice Corina

How the markets moved

Rises			
Barlow Rand	15p to 195p	Libson	57p to 59p
Downstream	11p to 28p	Middle Wigs	57p to 58p
E. Rand Prop	35p to 42p	Remley Cons	7p to 6p
Harmony	25p to 41p	Milbury	5p to 6p
Falls			
A&H	10p to 98p	Myson	4p to 41p
Allen H. & Ross	30p to 51p	Pentac	3p to 108p
Decca	20p to 50p	Pentac	3p to 63p
De La Rue	20p to 61p	Schroders	20p to 44p
Hammerman 'A'	17p to 53p	Serck	5p to 98p
Nickson & Welch	15p to 56p	Steel Bros	15p to 11p
Hunting Assoc	15p to 56p	Sun Alliance	20p to 57p
Hovover	35p to 42p	Thurgar Barx	15p to 11p
Kwik Save	16p to 24p	Travis & Arnold	15p to 12p
Morgan Edwds	5p to 30p	Union Discount	30p to 42p

Equities fell again. Gold edged securities were sold. Dollar premium 100.25 per cent (effective rate 39.40 per cent). Sterling lost 2.35 cents to \$1.5100. The effective exchange rate index was at 63.4.

On other pages
Business appointments 22
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THE POUND

Bank buys			
Australia S	31.00	Bank	1.63
Austria Sch	22.00	Bank	1.63
Belgium Fr	66.75	Bank	1.63
Canada S	2.05	Bank	1.63
Denmark Kr	11.52	Bank	1.63
Finland Mk	7.88	Bank	1.63
France F	110.00	Bank	1.63
Germany Dm	4.29	Bank	1.63
Greece Dr	70.00	Bank	1.63
Hongkong S	5.90	Bank	1.63
Italy L	163.00	Bank	1.63
Japan Yn	480.00	Bank	1.63
Netherlands Gld	4.60	Bank	1.63
Norway Kr	10.31	Bank	1.63
Portugal Esc	75.50	Bank	1.63
S Africa Rd	1.72	Bank	1.63
Spain Pes	154.50	Bank	1.63
Sweden Kr	9.05	Bank	1.63
Switzerland Fr	4.24	Bank	1.63
US \$	1.48	Bank	1.63
Yugoslavia Dnr	39.00	Bank	1.63

Gold gained 53 an ounce to \$164.375. SDR-5 was 1.15164 on Thursday, while SDR-4 was 0.646341. Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1,476.4 (previous 1,466.3).

Reports, pages 23 and 24

EEC will impose quotas if textile import talks fail

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

An attempt was made by the Government, yesterday, to allay fears in Britain's textile and clothing industries that the European Commission was adopting a hard attitude in negotiating aimed at the limitation of textile and clothing imports into the Community from the beginning of next year.

Under the terms of the Commission's negotiating mandate, quota coverage will be considerably more comprehensive than is provided for under the provisions of the existing MFA in relation to particular products, and to individual supplying countries.

Under the present MFA, the United Kingdom has secured quota arrangements covering about 75 per cent of textile and clothing imports from the main low cost sources.

In the case of the most sensitive areas of imported products, which include cotton yarn, knitted shirts and jeans, the quota coverage is more than 90 per cent.

have relentlessly increased their share of the United Kingdom market.

If the negotiations prove unsatisfactory, the Commission plans to introduce unilateral arrangements for textile imports from the beginning of next year.

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The Queen's Speech

More aid in pipeline for small businesses

By Our Financial Staff
The Labour Government's new-found commitment to favouring small companies was re-emphasized by the Queen, who said in her speech to the Commons yesterday that further measures to assist small firms were being considered.

In his Budget last week, the Chancellor announced a series of measures to alleviate the position of small businesses, particularly in relation to capital transfer tax, which has been seen by many as a deterrent to growth. Mr Healey's package was worth some £100m in a full year.

Other matters actively being considered by Mr Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who was charged by the Prime Minister in September

with investigating the problems of small businesses, include further alterations to CTT and another extension of the Small Firms Employment Subsidy.

Value-added tax is also being closely studied since this is one of the areas that has caused considerable outrage among businessmen because of the sheer volume of paperwork involved and is alleged, the attitude of the Customs and Excise Inspectors.

Mr Lever and Mr Bob Cryer, the Minister with special responsibility for small firms, have impressed on the Government that in the current economic climate small businesses present perhaps the best opportunity of bringing down the level of unemployment.



Mr Kaufman: September hopes dashed.

Battle over shipyard redundancy

By Peter Hill

Negotiations are still taking place between British Shipbuilders and leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on the precise terms of the redundancy Bill.

Officials at the Department of Industry and government ministers are anxious that the negotiations should be completed as soon as possible so an enabling Bill can be introduced into the Commons before the end of the year.

Mr Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, had previously expressed hopes that the terms of the agreement would be settled by the middle of September. The CSEU leaders, however, have spoken strongly against any compulsory redundancy within the industry.

In the discussions which have taken place so far they have preferred to talk about a voluntary redundancy scheme rather than redundancy. At the Treasury's insistence, the enabling Bill will refer to a maximum severance payment of £3,500, but this is regarded as a guide rather than a fixed sum.

Severance payments made under the scheme, which has been modelled on that operated by the British Steel Corporation, are likely to be greater than the ceiling referred to.

Law on insider trading unlikely this session

By Christopher Wilkins

Legislation covering stock market insider trading and company loans to directors is not now likely to be introduced in the present parliamentary session.

The Queen's Speech included a commitment to "amend company law", but the pressures on the parliamentary timetable suggest that there will only be scope for a limited Bill.

Proposed legislation will cover two main areas. The first is designed to implement the EEC's second directive on the differentiation of public and private companies. A comprehensive document on this subject was published in late July. The new law will require public companies to take on a new designation, for instance ICI (Public), and will also cover minimum capital requirements.

Also under the legislation regulators will be allowed to charge fees to cover the costs of administration.

These limited measures suggest that some of the key developments contained in a recent Green Paper and answers to parliamentary questions by Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, have at least temporarily been shelved.

Included in these was the question of insider trading becoming a criminal offence and amendments to the Prevention of Fraud Act of 1958.

Legislation enabling the Government to compensate the Central Electricity Generating Board for the early ordering of the second stage of the Drax coal-fired power station in Yorkshire will be included in the Bill to reorganize the electricity industry.

The Department of Energy and the generating board have already agreed in principle that compensation should be paid for bringing forward the £600m project by 16 months. The legislation will allow the CEGB to be recompensed for extra costs as they are incurred, up to a maximum of £50m.

Under the general reorganization provisions of the Bill, the CEGB and the Electricity Council will be abolished and a new body likely to be called the Central Electricity Board, will take over responsibility for the industry as a whole.

The legislation will implement the recommendations of the Plowden Committee of Inquiry into the industry which said that the present structure of an autonomous generating authority and 12 area supply boards left the Electricity Council in a relatively weak position. The new board will replace the 12 supply boards. Apart from the Drax B compensation provisions this is likely to be the only controversial section of the Bill.

Further proposals covering disclosure by companies, introduced, however, the Government is expected to make use of a little known power under section 454 of the 1948 Companies Act allowing it to alter the content of company reports. Only so far as changes in the directors' report are involved will legislation be required.

The July Green Paper, *The Future of Company Reports*, suggested that company reports should include: a value-added statement; an employment statement; more comprehensive financial information, including a source and uses of funds statement; short term borrowings; pension fund obligations; leasing arrangements; and foreign currency transactions; a detailed breakdown of a company's activities; and an international trade statement.

Proposals outlined earlier this week for a three-tier corporate disclosure system, permitting less disclosure by small companies, are likely to be dealt with in the legislation on small companies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When insurance is put in jeopardy

From Mr J. C. Edmondson, 35, I am assuming that no one from the insurance industry has commented on Mr N. V. Kay's letter published in *Business News* (October 24). His letter raises most important practical and philosophical points.

For example: (a) When judges sentence offenders are they also silently adding "... and you will never again be able to insure against fire?"

(b) If so, is it not incumbent upon all insurers to advise their customers of all the offences

which will render their present policies void?

(c) Has it not hitherto been assumed that the courts would protect citizens against the attempts of insurers to avoid liability where the latter sought to rely on spurious questions asked years beforehand?

(d) As it is my experience that insurers consistently seek to avoid liability ought they not to be required to employ the most explicit forms of proposal—copies of which ought to be provided for the insured's retention?

(e) Is it not indicative of the

determination of insurers to avoid liability that those documents the insured considers most vital (that is, the policy document and the renewal notice) rarely make mention of the jeopardy the insured may be in as a result of innocent omission?

(f) Finally—where does it all end? Is it really in the public interest for those who have ever in their lives broken the law to be denied insurance?

J. C. EDMONDSON, 34 The Garstons, Great Bookham, Surrey.

Pension scheme funding and 'games of chance'

From the Director-General of the Royal Institute of Public Administration

Sir, In his letter published under the title "Funded Public Sector Pension Schemes" (*Business News*, October 31) Mr K. G. Smith, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, says that, provided a real return is realized on investment, it is cheaper long-term to meet pension liabilities through funded schemes than via pay-as-you-go. He adds that the pressing need for a real rate of return is now becoming universally recognized.

In this imperfect world, however, recognition of need is no guarantee of its satisfaction. A recent publication by Roger Kizson and Michael Pich, entitled *Pension Funds and the Economy* (Noble Lowndes Division, Lowndes Lambert Group Limited) gives valuable information about the effects of varying real rates of return on pension fund investments. The authors state that for a mean of 35 at entry, who is to receive an inflation-related pension of £5 on the basis of 1/60 of final earnings for each year of service, a contribution of 10 per cent of salary will suffice if a positive real rate of return of 5 per cent can be secured. A contribution of 43 per cent of salary will be required, however, if the rate of return is a negative one of 3 per cent.

It follows that if the employee contributes 5 per cent of salary, the employer's contribution will range from 5 per cent to 38 per cent of salary. In the least favourable situation, therefore, the employer's contribution will be 71 times as large as in the most favourable. Such a range of possibility is surely well beyond the tolerances and margins for error within which the prudent businessman normally conducts his affairs.

That this is no idle theorizing may be seen from the experience of the Post Office, which is now paying pension contributions of 23 per cent of salary in addition to the 7 per cent paid by the staff. The joint contribution in British Steel is currently 24 per cent of the pay roll. These rates are payable for at least the next 20-25 years, and it would be a bold man who would prophesy that they will rise so further.

The employer who is committed to a funded pension scheme offering inflated real rates of contribution from his employees is thus gambling in a big way. He is putting his finances at the mercy of unpredictable and uncontrollable events in the world at large for an unlimited period of time. That the Government should permit (or require) local authorities and the nationalized industries to hazard large sums of public money in such a game of chance when it has no need to do so is surely reprehensible to a degree.

RAYMOND NOTTAGE, Director-General, Royal Institute of Public Administration, Hamilton House, Mableton Road, London WC1H 9BB.

Help for the small firm entrepreneur

From Mr G. A. Bowen, Sir, I should like to take up an extremely important point made in Mr John Bolton's article of November 2 on small firms.

Young managers attracted to the concept of entrepreneurial activity in small manufacturing industry rarely have their own capital. As a result they cannot take over a profitable concern, or start from scratch in anything but an inefficient, one-man operation. The only alternative open to them is to find a loss-making operation and turn it round in exchange for the shares.

The capital required to do this cannot come from the banks because the 1:1 ratio of borrowing against capital and reserves is clearly not fulfilled. It can only come from family and friends prepared to back the individual. It is here that tax relief is needed, since at the moment tax relief is given if money is lent to a building society, but no incentive is given to anyone to lend to small limited manufacturing companies who are struggling to turn a loss into a profit.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE BOWEN, Managing Director, Mendenham Bowen Limited, 4 Mackintosh Lane, London E9 6AB, November 2.

White Paper on industrial democracy still held up

By Our Industrial Editor

Given the divisions among trade unions as well as ministers, no one in industry was surprised yesterday to learn of delays in bringing forward a White Paper on legislation on the introduction of employee-directors in companies.

Months of argument in Cabinet committee rooms, strong representations from the Confederation of British Industry, and pressure from Liberals made it inevitable that the Government should recognize the need for further consultations on the sensitive issue of industrial democracy.

It has always been recognized that legislation to promote the introduction of employee representatives in boardrooms would need to command wider support than evident after publication of the Bullock Report, with its divided views on the form worker democracy should take.

The issue is certainly not dead, even if time has now been

bought in framing proposals for Parliament. Experiments are going ahead in the nationalized industries, notably the Post Office, while employers seek to face the implementation of new disclosure provisions under employment-law-related codes of practice.

The Treasury is believed to be examining Liberal ideas for profit sharing schemes, and no one can be quite sure whether general reform of company law will bring provisions relating to employee rights.

Yesterday, the feeling in Whitehall was that the Government will now come forward with a Green Paper setting out some of the post-Bullock options as a basis for its promised further consultations with the CBI and the TUC.

This might shift the emphasis of discussion up to now away from statutory provisions to give employees controversial rights, to the idea of permissible legislation that would encourage companies to come forward voluntarily with a different scheme to meet recommended standards for participation.

Review of competition policy overlaps



Mr Charles Williams: new powers.

By Patricia Tisdall
An examination of overlapping aspects both of the legislative and the bodies which administer it will be part of the review of competition policy announced yesterday.

While the precise form of the review has not yet been decided, the new powers given to the Price Commission, headed by Mr Charles Williams, on August 1 for example take it much closer to, and in some instances duplicates, the functions of the Monopolies Commission.

The possibility of an eventual merger between the two commissions has already been discussed, and is likely to be related again.

At the same time it is likely

that ways of tightening up administration of existing legislation governing competition policy will be raised. Concrete proposals to strengthen some Government powers following a Monopolies Commission report have already been made.

Further sanctions to control restrictive trade practices, possibly to bring in organizations which have not registered under the present system, may be proposed.

The Government has expressed its concern about the level of concentration of ownership in British industry relative to that in other countries. This may be reflected in their scrutiny of existing legislation concerning future large-scale company mergers.

In brief

W German jobless goes up to 4.2 pc

Registered unemployed in West Germany rose last month by 43,100 to 954,400. The total now stands at 4.2 per cent of the working population.

The increase, which followed a decline in September, was attributed to seasonal factors by Herr Josef Stiegl, president of the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg.

"We are disappointed that the situation on the labour market is so poor, but we were pleasantly surprised that there was no further cyclical deterioration," he commented when announcing the figures.

There are now about 10,700 more people unemployed in West Germany than there was a year ago.

Housing starts show third quarter advance

Construction of 28,400 houses and flats was started in September, against 29,500 in the same month last year, according to figures published yesterday. Completions in September numbered 28,100, against 30,000 last year.

Taking three-month totals to reduce monthly fluctuations and discounting seasonal factors, starts in the third quarter of 1977 were 5 per cent up on the April to June period, but 17 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 1976.

Overseas construction contracts total £1,700m

Overseas construction contracts worth £1,700m were won by British construction companies in the year ended March 1977, according to provisional figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment.

This total was £383m higher than the revised figure for 1975/76.

Hitachi decision delay

The Government's decision on plans by the Japanese television group to establish a television factory at Tyne and Wear has been delayed, Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said yesterday. Hitachi is being given more time for discussions with industry critics, who say the scheme would create thousands of redundancies in British television suppliers.

Chrysler stewards will urge return to work by strikers at Linwood

By Edward Townsend

Proposals to end the damaging strike at Chrysler UK's Linwood car assembly plant in Scotland are to be put to a meeting today after intervention by ministers and top union officials.

The strikers, whose stoppage has closed the plant, halted production of the Avenger and new Sunbeam models and led to calls for support from other Scottish workers, are to be advised by shop stewards to return to work to allow detailed discussions with the company.

The apparent speed with which a solution has been agreed follows an urgent meeting on Wednesday night between Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mr Grenville Hawley of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr Gavin Laird of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The Government's extreme concern that the state-backed car group might be disrupted for a long period was expressed to the two union officials, who travelled to Scotland yesterday to talk with the Linwood stewards.

Linwood has been closed for 16 days by the dispute, which arose after the suspension of four inspectors for refusing to move to another part of the factory. More than 7,000 workers are laid off.

In a statement last night Chrysler said that throughout the dispute it had emphasized the need for serious discussions on measures to improve output. These would now take place and involve senior national union officials as well as representatives of management and the Chrysler joint representative council.

British Leyland, still hit by a strike at its plant at Speke, Liverpool, has taken swift action to implement the decision of the

workers' ballot in favour of its wage-reform package. Leyland management yesterday met national union officials in London and announced later that a meeting of the joint negotiating committee on pay bargaining was to take place next week.

Once the final agreement has been signed, Leyland plans to backdate parts of the package to November 1.

The Speke strike has halted output of the TR7 sports car and Dolomite at Coventry. About 1,500 men stopped work five days ago over a manning dispute.

A further 2,000 have been laid off at Leyland's Cowley factories because of a parts shortage caused by a strike at Smiths Industries at Crickmoor.

Vauxhall said yesterday that the bulk of its 24,000 manual workers had responded to a company offer to return to work despite a continuing strike by 3,000 craftsmen.

67pc of dismissal claims favoured the employer

By Our Industrial Editor

Evidence which appears to refute employers' claims that industrial tribunals are favouring workers in bringing forward claims under new employment protection law has been produced by the Department of Employment.

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, is apparently concerned and surprised by the current wave of complaints about provisions against unfair dismissals.

Figures prepared by the Department show that in the 12 months up to the end of June there were 39,000 complaints of unfair dismissal. However, this did not result in the same number of tribunal hearings, as about 12,000 were settled satisfactorily by conciliation officers and almost 10,000 cases were simply withdrawn.

Out of the 17,000 cases, which went forward to a hearing, about 11,500 were found in the employers' favour—approximately 67 per cent—therefore produced decisions against employees complaining of unfair dismissal.

However, employers, faced with a wave of unfair dismissal actions (there were only 5,000 in 1972 compared with an expected 50,000 in 1977), say the fact that so many cases are being won by employers begs

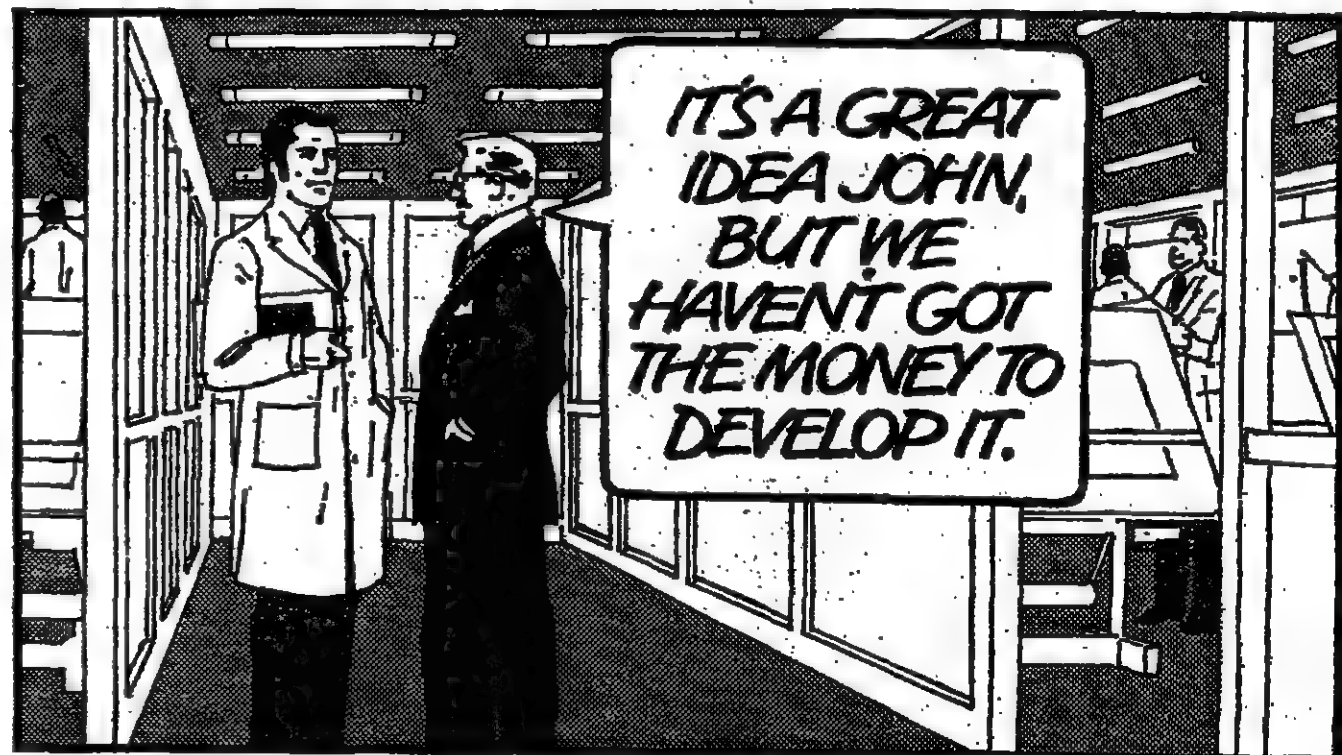
the question of whether too many employees are just rushing to tribunals to trade their ex-employers, who are obliged to prove they did not dismiss unfairly.

Mr Booth's answer is that the number of claims underlines the importance workers place on their rights. Employers who feel they spent undue time coping with this form of litigation should be asked whether their policies left something to be desired. Not all employees, he says, are awkward customers, for there are awkward employers too.

The Department of Employment is now monitoring the operation of the Employment Protection Act and has commissioned research on its effects on the labour market.

This week, Mr Booth begins a campaign to counter attacks on the new employment law. He says "We have seen no hard evidence so far to support the allegations that have been made about the adverse effects of employment legislation in the labour market."

Unfair dismissal procedure, he argues, does not mean everyone had a job for life. "Of course a worker can be dismissed, but only if it is fair and reasonable to do so. And anyone who takes such a decision must be prepared to stand by his reasons for doing so."



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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

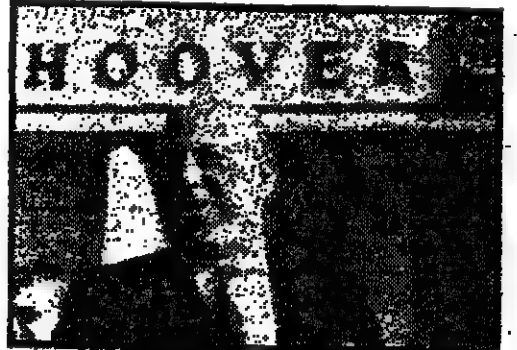
Parameters for sterling

The way the authorities let sterling fall below the \$1.80 level yesterday afternoon inevitably drew squeals of anguish from the foreign exchange market. That in itself does not automatically call for sympathy.

But there is a very real question as to what the authorities were up to. Were they merely showing that the parameters within which sterling is to be allowed to float are indeed extremely wide and, perhaps, extremely flexible too? Or was yesterday's action, or inaction, no more than a move of expediency following the unexpected threat delivered to pay policy by the miners' earlier in the week?

It is doubtless going to take the authorities a little more time to find their sea-legs in the floating game. But they are going to have to make some decision before too long on the appropriate degree of volatility they should permit.

That is not to say that the authorities, having set out to sea, should use the first ripple as an excuse for turning back towards the shore. But having allowed substantial potential instability to build up in the gilt-edged market this year, they might well feel that they are rather less seaworthy than they might otherwise have been.



Profits are still being ravaged by currency losses at Hoover so that the nine-month point, pre-tax profits of £8.6m do not compare well with the £12.4m achieved at this stage last year.

But a 35p fall in the share price yesterday to 360p seemed an unduly savage reaction which perhaps owed more to the susceptibility of Hoover to technical movements than to market pessimism.

Allowing for a currency swing of over 15m from profit to loss in the first nine months, underlying profits growth has been of the order of 18 per cent.

Hoover, whose chairman is Mr P. C. Dunn (above) has managed to keep prices moving ahead and despite heavy discounting margins have actually crept up.

Meanwhile, the group still seems able to take greater market share even in the fierce washing machine arena and a pre-Christmas spending boost could push profits to over £15m for this full year. That would leave the shares, on a p/e ratio of around 10 and with a likely yield of over 6, looking relatively cheap ahead of what is widely expected to be a good year for consumer durable makers.

Inflation accounting

A workable compromise

Guidelines on inflation accounting produced by the Hyde Committee chief are clearly a compromise short-term solution. Possible areas of confrontation have been unashamedly ducked; dissenters on methods of calculating adjustments are easily accommodated.

At its most basic the Hyde system is little more than a plea to produce three main inflation accounting adjustments on depreciation, sales and the effect of debt financing, in a prominent place in accounts, by whatever method suits, providing the method is disclosed. At its best it is a simple and effective way of showing the effect of inflation on profits which in detail will please no-one, but everyone can accept. Its beauty is that it is workable.

The stringency of the voices calling for a system of inflation accounting has fallen with inflation itself. The need for it remains. Stockbrokers Phillips & Drew calculate that after tax profits for 1977 will be reduced by between 35 per cent and 40 per cent by implementing Hyde compared with a 48 per cent reduction from implementing the Morphet Group's, exposure draft. The difference is Hyde's recognition of benefits gained by the effects on inflation on debt financing.

A system of inflation accounting that

HYDE IN PRACTICE

Estimate of the effects of the adjustments on industrial companies' historic cost profits for 1977.

Conventional pre-tax profit	100
Depreciation adjustment	18
Cost of sales adjustment	22
Adjustments from associates	1
Plus "gearing" adjustment	9
Not adjustments	32
Tax (no provision for deferred tax)	35
CCA after tax profit	33

Source: Phillips & Drew.

ignored gains from monetary liabilities had been increasingly regarded as inadequate. Hyde's system may not be perfect, but the guidelines are open to improvement. The important thing is that the step has been taken, and both the CBI and the Stock Exchange have gone along with it.

Few companies may be able to comply with the recommendation to produce accounts for 1977 adjusted the Hyde way. Most should be able to next year. The test of the guidelines and of a continuing requirement for inflation accounting will be how much attention the adjusted accounts command from financial commentators, unions and Government.

ICF's offer of its 62.8 per cent stake in IMI (48 per cent paid) required investors to put up £32.7m by yesterday's close, and they did just that. But only just.

No one was denying last night, least of all the issuing houses involved, Schroder Wags and Warburgs, that this big offer has become a close run thing once the market turned sour after the sterling drama and the miners' vote.

A couple of days ago underwriters were preparing the take up stock. In the end a yield of over 9 per cent at the offer price and heavy applications from among ICF's 550,000 shareholders, who got first preference, proved sufficient to save the day and probably did IMI's after-market a great deal of good in that the stags stayed away.

Barclays Merchant banking is for clearers

The appointment of a safe and solid clearing banker in the mould of Mr Deryk Weyer, presently vice-chairman of the Barclays group, to head up the merchant banking arm following the abrupt departure of the more flamboyant Mr Charles Ball will provide yet more ammunition to those in the City who argue that the inevitably cumbersome structure of the clearer can never really effectively handle the more free-wheeling style of the merchant.

What it seems to imply for Barclays merchant bank is that it will henceforth take a much lower profile. Certainly Barclays was yesterday emphasizing that the mainstream banking side was far more profitable than the more publicized take-over business, and it would be in that area in which it would concentrate its activities.

But it also seems fairly clear that Mr Weyer's appointment, even though in a non-executive capacity, has been made with an eye to avoiding the sort of disagreements between the merchant banking arm and the rest of the group that led to Mr Ball's departure. So it looks as though Barclays will never allow its merchant banking side the same sort of freedom that Samuel Montagu appears to enjoy with its Midland masters.

All the same, while conceding that the merchant bank suffers certain constraints from operating in a larger grouping—much of the medium-term lending will continue to be done in the branches, the international side will keep onto the Eurocurrency business, investment management will be carried out inside the trust company—Barclays nevertheless feels that the ordinary corporate finance business, acceptance credits and the rest of the medium-term lending business provides it with a decent future.

Whether what Barclays is now doing should truly be termed merchant banking is another matter, however. The decision to pump more of its money into 10-year and more lending, funds that will not always be matched with deposits in maturity, also seems to take the group further away from merchant banking as such.

The modest amounts due to trickle into wage packets at the end of this month as a result of the change in tax allowances will bring an immediate relief to some retailers. In the longer term, an improvement in consumer affluence brought by a real rise in wages against lower inflation cannot fail to benefit the industry generally. But it will take a long time to wipe out the accumulated trade lost over the past five years.

For some traders, such as Meakers, Sweeney & Vells, John Temple and Chris, together with large numbers of branches shed by multiples, including International and the Co-op, any reprieve comes too late to avert closure. More subtle changes in shopping habits, in the balance between specialist and general trader and between large and small stores may also prove irreversible.

Patricia Tisdall

Against expectations, 1977 has so far turned out to be a very bad year indeed. It started badly with the first quarter's index of volume sales at 105.2, the lowest for more than five years.

During the subsequent months, up to August (the latest date for which full Department of Trade figures are available), the index of volume sales was so weak as to be imperceptible if averaged over the eight months.

March, April, May and June were exceptionally poor, well below the average of between 103.1 and 104.4. There was a slight comparative recovery to 107 and 107.2 in July and August, but provisional figures for September, at 106.5 show that the decline has been reversed and retailers have been no better.

The worrying aspect, taken

Will Christmas redeem the retailers' year?

CHANGE IN VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES

Index numbers of sales per week seasonally adjusted

	All kinds of business	Food shops	Clothing and footwear shops	Durable goods shops	Other non-food shops
1973	110.7	101.0	108	127	118
1974	108.9	101.8	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	108	121	115
1976	108.1	98.1	108	124	114
Average of 1st 8 months 1977	105.2	95.0	107	120	113
Average of 1st 8 months 1973	110.0	100.8	109	126	117
% decrease over 5 years	4.4	5.8	1.8	4.8	3.4

Source: Department of Trade.

buying patterns to match their strained purses.

By June the move to cheaper foods and other economies in buying had become reflected in the National Food Survey. The most striking example is tea and instant coffee, where reaction against higher prices caused a big drop in purchases.

Sales of coffee at 0.33oz per person per week is over 23 per cent down on the equivalent figure for 1976, and over 35 per cent down on 1975. Tea purchases, at 1.38oz per person per week, are down by about 10 per cent on the 1976 total.

Other movements in food purchases include a reduction in butter but an increase in margarine. There were decreases, compared with 1976, in comparative "luxuries" such as fresh fruit, canned fruit, canned fish and meat, but increases in offals and home baking products, including flour and cooking fat.

The big food stores reacted to the decrease in their overall market by striving to become more price competitive. The downward trend in overall sales was a factor in influencing Tesco's decision to abandon Green Shield stamps in June and to substitute keen price cutting to improve its share of the market.

The effect of the resulting price war has been to widen the price gap between the big mul-

tiples food stores and the small, unaffiliated independents. On some food products there may now be a variation of as much as 40 per cent in the price charged by different types of shop.

It is too soon yet to assess the full consequences of a price gap of this magnitude, but preliminary results are that more customers are travelling longer distances and shopping less frequently in order to take advantage of the bigger stores' prices. Once firmly established, such a trend is not likely to be reversed by a gradual return to affluence.

Another move accentuated by the slump in overall sales has been the noticeable attempt by the big food stores to improve efficiency. One obvious way has been to pare stock levels and to speed up the distributive chain from manufacturer to shop floor. To this end all the big groups are seriously considering the use of new electronic aids. The manufacturers of some of these claim to be able to reduce store stock levels by up to 50 per cent.

In addition to improving handling efficiency, the big food retailers have also drastically reduced the number of different products stocked. A return to affluence could lead to an opening for small specialist food traders to fill the gaps created by the multiples' economies.

One of the unexpected trends revealed by the 1971 Census of Distribution (some of the results of which are still being published) is the rise of specialist durable shopkeepers between 1961 and 1971. Contrary to widely-held beliefs, large numbers of specialists dealing in a variety of goods, from fishing tackle to jewelry (which possibly the multiples tended to find too specialized) did well during that period. It is possible that this trend could be extended to food.

Next to food the category to suffer most over the past five years has been the durable goods stockists whose volume of trade has dropped by 4.8 per cent over the five-year period.

This is the sector which is most quickly responsive to general economic changes. Past experiences, notably the amazing "beat-the-Budget" boom in April 1975, has shown that sales respond steeply and immediately to tax changes or the threat of tax changes. But retailers here, as elsewhere, have been cutting back on stock levels and may not be able to satisfy a sharp increase in consumer demand.

Clothing and footwear sales overall have remained comparatively steady throughout the recession, with volume sales ending the five-year period only 1 per cent down. But within this category, fairly satisfactory sales of footwear, children's and women's fashion clothing have disguised declines in men's and boys' wear.

An analysis of retail sales trends compiled by I. Walter Thompson suggests that footwear shops enjoyed a volume increase of 3.5 per cent in 1976 over the preceding year, but men's and boys' wear shops sales dropped by 4.5 per cent, while the third group maintained volume sales close to the 1975 level.

The trend, however, is a gradual one and is not likely to be quickly reversed.

Fresh light thrown on the laser beam's potential

For many years the laser appeared to be a solution looking for problems. More recently it has emerged into public view as a tool of precision in the laboratory and the world of entertainment, lasers have gradually become a powerful tool in industry, engineering, communications, medicine, and in the police and defence services.

Many of these uses are now being shown at the Laser Exhibition mounted by Laser Light Control at the Science Museum, London. And the use of lasers in manufacturing industry is detailed by Dr C. D. Desautels of Engelhard Industries (Europe) in the Design Council's Engineering magazine.

Just as the image of the sun can be focused through a lens to burn a piece of paper, the energy of a laser source can be focused in a sharp, narrow beam that can burn its way through most engineering materials.

As the name laser implies (it stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation), laser light is amplified or concentrated in a highly intense beam. It can be projected over long distances; it can be focused down to a pinpoint of light, or it can be used as a source of a variety of uses in manufacturing industry.

Low-power lasers can cut materials such as plastics, wood, paper, textiles and glass at very high speeds. High-power carbon dioxide lasers can cut quartz tubing for electric lamps accurately and with smooth edges.

Slo-cutting in plywood die boards for mounting the cutting and creasing knives in the production of cardboard boxes and cartons has proved a classic laser use, well-suited to numerical-control automation.

Cloth can be laser-cut at speeds of hundreds of metres a minute, again giving a heat-sealed edge which will not fray. In more exotic materials, the time to cut a hard-spoon composite has been reduced from eight hours to only four minutes.

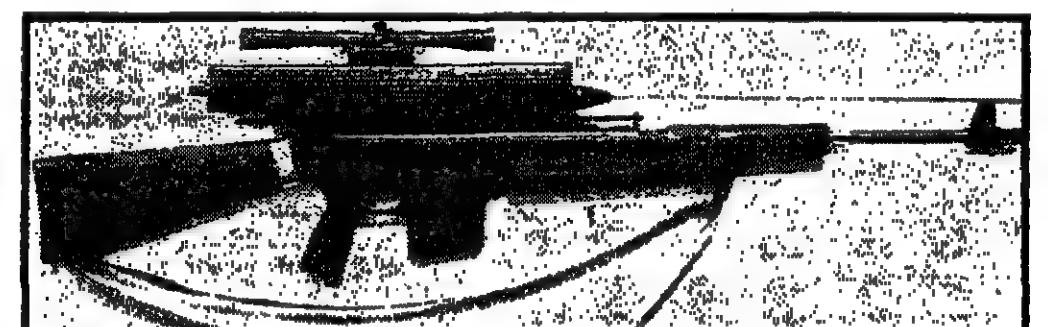
"Pulsed" lasers in which the energy travels in brief pulses rather than a continuous beam give the higher energy densities that are needed for drilling. The products being drilled by lasers range from diamonds, which are used in die-drawing machinery, to rubber teats for babies' feeding bottles and polystyrene tubing for drip irrigation.

Other manufacturing processes for which lasers are proving suitable include welding; shock hardening to improve the properties of metallic alloys; and surface hardening by heat treatment to give a hard combination of properties in a range of engineering components.

In police work, the use of lasers ranges from laser sights on marksmen's rifles to advanced laser photography for investigating the scenes of crime.

A low-power helium-neon laser mounted on a high-power rifle enables the weapon to be fired extremely accurately, in cases where hostages are being held, for example, this is a major advantage. The marksmen aligns the laser's red dot on the target, while the actual sight of the laser beam may well cause the criminal to surrender before a shot is fired.

The magic of holography, which can produce realistic images which appear to be genuinely three-dimensional objects in space, can be combined with the power of laser illumination to give an uncanny amount of information to the investigating detective.



A high-power rifle fitted with a laser sight for deadly accuracy.

Footprints on a carpet might be undetectable with an ordinary camera, but a double-exposure hologram could show the barely perceptible changes as the carpet fibres move back into place. The Police Scientific Development Branch reports that 48-hour-old footprints have been revealed in laboratory tests; and a 12-hour-old footprint can be "dated" to within one hour.

The same technique can be used to read and "date" the impressions left by writing on a pad of paper, even when many sheets are torn off; and to indicate whether or not a telephone has recently been used.

Lasers are unsurpassed for generating straight lines for alignments and measurements in surveying and construction work. As well as straight-forward laser versions of the ubiquitous theodolite, an ingenious rotating helium-neon laser system has been developed.

For construction work, the rotating laser can be used to "draw" a thin, perfectly horizontal red line on walls as the beam's red dot moves rapidly across. This can be used as a horizontal reference for windows, floor joists, ceilings, and so on.

Conventional lasers and their dead-straight lines are also used in tunnelling, mining, pipe laying, trenching, fencing, steel erection, bridge-building and shipbuilding.

Range-finding is another natural use for lasers, in both civil-engineering and military

applications. Individual soldiers can carry binocular-like laser rangefinders.

Among military aircraft electronics are weapon-sighting systems which home in on targets which are marked by laser beams aimed by troops on the ground. Another aerospace development involves laser-guided gyroscopes for the guidance and navigation of missiles and aircraft.

Among a host of other specialist uses of lasers, communications and medicine

(including in particular eye surgery) indicate the wide range of possibilities. A carbon-dioxide laser sculpture is among the exhibits at the Science Museum; lasers are playing a role for video discs on the horizon; X-ray lasers in the future will make possible true X-ray holograms.

Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

FIBREGLASS PILKINGTON LIMITED BOMBAY

Record Turnover and Profits

Results for the year to 31st March 1977

	1977 £'000	1976 £'000
Turnover	5,633	4,037
Trading Profit	1,543	945
Net Profit before Tax and after all charges	1,340	729
Earnings per Share	27.7p	18.9p
Proposed Dividend per Share	11.8p	9.9p
Sterling/Rupee Conversion Rate	= 15.2R/£	

The following points were made at the Annual General Meeting held in Bombay on the 13th September 1977 by the Chairman, Mr. T.E. Peppercorn:

- The year had again been a successful one with record sales and profits in difficult circumstances.
- The benefits of high volumes of sales and production together with increases in factory efficiencies were reflected in the improved profits.
- Exports had doubled and progress here is expected to continue.
- Under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act the Government had agreed that the Pilkington Group may continue to hold a majority shareholding in FGP in view of the sophisticated nature of the Company's technology and subject to a satisfactory export performance.
- The Company had indicated to the Government its intention to make application for the renewal of its licensing and technical agreements.
- A dividend of 18% (last year 15%) was declared.

Fibreglass Pilkington Limited is a subsidiary of the Pilkington Group with a substantial Indian institutional and public shareholding.

Business Diary: Whither the second Sir William?

Sir William Barlow, who took over this week from Sir William Ryland as chairman of the Post Office Corporation, was "at home" to Business Diary in his new office yesterday.

Sir William, who is 53, comes to the PO—second only to British Leyland as the greatest Aunt Sally of British business life—from the comparative calm of the halfbearing makers Ramome, Hoffman Pollard.

He comes over as a quiet, confident diplomatic sort of chap (he has a reputation as a fast worker and decision taker, the sort who doesn't like to take work home), and seems happy to take the blame as well as the praise if the PO service does not improve.

His visits to PU staff, he said, had convinced him that they wanted to improve services, and therefore his job was "to help local staff raise standards—that pleases customers, improves Post Office confidence in itself, and profits will come from giving value for money".

Sir William allowed that the corporation could perhaps deliver letters more quickly and make telephoning smoother, but added that improvements had been made, as in the long-distance telephone service, for example.

He, if anyone, should be able to get on well with his sponsoring ministry, the Department of Industry, since he has served within Noddy and there-

Similarly, he's also served on the CBI council, and should therefore be able to do something about the dissatisfaction which led his predecessor to withdraw the PO from membership of the confederation.

Like a lot of things the CBI has been doing and saying recently, he said: "While I don't know all the reasons for the Post Office's leaving, it will have my consideration, certainly."

He is as keen to winnow out complaints that are unjustified as he is to identify and act upon those that are fair—and he has a lot of time to devote to indulge in coming weeks.

There is a long queue of people wishing to bend his ear, among them members of the statutory Post Office Users' National Committee and business-inspired organizations such as the Telephone and the Mail Users' Associations.

But Sir William seems to be off to a good start.

Jim Slater's row with the author Charles Raw over the latter's book Slater, Walker (Deutsch, £6.95) continues today as Slater pops up as reviewer in the publishing trade magazine Books & Bookmen. Although Slater describes Raw's account as inaccurate, boring and unfair,

Raw won't be returning the compliment—if that's the word when Slater's apologetic Return to Raw (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £5.95) is reviewed in the next issue. According to a footnote to Slater's review this will be done by "C. Gordon Fether", thought to be a reference to another controversial financial writer, C. Gordon Fether. No lightning bolt.

The Washington DC real estate market is being rocked by two spectacular deals, one involving what is probably the most celebrated piece of private property in the world, and the other concerning one of the world's best known and richest politicians.

About \$49m has just been paid by American property interests associated with the Continental Illinois Bank for half of the Watergate complex, including the office that was the scene of a certain burglary back in 1972.

The seller is the Italian Societa Immobiliare Generale, which has been troubled since, not long after Watergate, one of its chief organizers, Mr. Silvio Berlusconi, began to get into legal trouble over alleged frauds both in Italy and in the United States.

A couple of miles away from the Watergate the former

American Vice President, Nelson Rockefeller, has sold his 25-acre estate in the heart of the city's most expensive residential area for about \$5.5m (£3.5m).

Developers want to build 100 private houses at \$300,000 (£150,000) a time, a plan people who live nearby are fighting. Either way, Rockefeller is even better off.

Two pieces of good news yesterday for Sir John Terry, who is managing director of the National Film Finance Corporation, which puts public and private money into British productions.

First was the Queen's Speech, whose scriptwriting Sir John could hardly but approve, since it spoke of more public

money for the corporation. The second is the critical reception of *Black Joy*, Anthony Simmons's film musical about West Indians in Brixton, south London, which opened at the Plaza last night.

The NFFC backed this film, of which *The Times* David Robinson describes as "explosive with life and vigour and optimism" and which the London Evening Standard's Alexander Walker says has "some of the saltiest, sexiest, funniest dialogue I've heard in years". Just made for quotation on the posters, what?

Sir John told us last night that he didn't know how much more cash was on the way but said "The more the merrier", since there wasn't enough in the kitty to make any "significant contribution" to British film production between now and 1980.

Latest East European joke. James Callaghan, Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev are all at a meeting and each offers a cigarette. Inside Callaghan's case is the inscription: "Love to Jim from Len and the boys at the TUC." Inside Carter's: "From the people of America with love." Inside the Russian leader's is the inscription: "To Nicholas with all my love. Alexandra."

Photograph by John Manning

The Post Office's Sir William Barlow yesterday: tower of strength?

More knows his way around Whitehall.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Kwik Save's formula may not be enough

By Bryan Appleyard

Having increased sales by 66 per cent and pre-tax profits by as much as 88 per cent, Kwik Save now faces a problem of maintaining its position in an atmosphere of intensifying competition and rising wage costs.

This is precisely what the company managed to do in the past year by some well-judged buying of tea and coffee, a 28 per cent growth in sales area and impressive ability to undercut its competitors.

But the cost was £5m worth of tea and coffee stocks at the end, now run down to £1m, and a turnaround from a bank balance of £1.25m to a deficit of £850,000.

This, combined with the £25m needed for the new 125m warehouse, justified yesterday's two-for-twenty-five issue.

It can be seen as a small price to pay for the kind of commitment that Kwik Save has shown during the year.

A further 30 stores adding 10 per cent to sales area this year suggests the drive is continuing unabated.

But straightforward geographical growth may not be enough in the food retailing sector. Kwik Save has specifically invested in small stores, sitting at rock bottom prices.

It is a policy that must allow a degree of risk if possible incomes are really to be a substantial increase.

Stores with a wider choice of products are expected to win the market.

Meanwhile the group is seriously saving that wage rates should be held to 13 per cent this year, though even that level, a narrowing of margins seems inevitable.

However, sales area growth management should push it to £11m pre-tax this year. The res fell 16p to 240p yesterday.

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UBM advances after 3 years of retreat

By Desmond Quigley

The profits decline over the past three years at UBM, the building merchants group, appears to be over. There was a 43 per cent pre-tax profit increase from £1.11m to £1.53m in the six months to the end of August.

However, a near doubled tax charge and a decline in extraordinary credits, sent attributable profits down slightly to £1.06m.

The profits were well short of best market expectations of around £2m, but the sign that the group's reorganization now appears to be paying off led to the shares rising by 14p to 58 1/2p yesterday.

An unchanged interim dividend of 2 1/2p a share gross has been declared. If the dividend for the year is unchanged the shares are yielding 9.2 per cent.

And it should be maintained because the group seems to be on an upward trend and cover the useful profit margin of 12.7m into the 1.3 times of last year.

The group managed its 43 per cent pre-tax profit increase on a 16 per cent rise in turnover to £33m, demonstrating

the way its operations have been pruned. Moreover it seems likely that UBM is highly geared to any upturn in the market and would be able to increase sales rapidly with few extra overheads.

Despite generally poor trading conditions, UBM reports that the merchandising division made a significant improvement. The prospects for the rest of the year look reasonably encouraging in this sector thanks to an increase in private housing sales in Scotland and the North East.

However, the group reports that the stimulus provided for the building industry in last week's Budget is unlikely to have any impact in the current financial year.

Progress was made at the Bradford merchandising company and UBM engineering, and both are expected to be in profit by the end of the year.

In June, Equity Capital for Industrial Investment £2.7m into the group in a controversial move which gave ECI a near 11 per cent equity stake, roughly the same size as the stake already held by M & G.

Globe and Phoenix abandon their merger proposal

The new boards of the Globe and Phoenix Mining and Finance have decided to abandon the merger proposal between the two companies.

The boards have considered the merger plan in detail in the light of changed circumstances. For various reasons, in particular change in the asset base of the companies, they have reached a firm and unanimous opinion that it will be in the interests of all shareholders if the merger proposals are abandoned.

The boards share the view expressed by the Shareholders Protection Committee, the Stock Exchange and others that cross-holdings are undesirable.

They propose that Phoenix Mining and Finance sell its holding in Globe for cash which

will also restore the former working capital. As these shares represent the Phoenix Mining shareholding interest in the Rhodanian assets, they will be offered to Phoenix Mining shareholders other than the Globe shareholding in Phoenix Mining.

The price is 65p a share and will leave Phoenix with about £300,000 in cash and investments in addition to the Worldwide Group. The 42.7 per cent Globe shareholding in Phoenix will be kept for the time being.

Globe will then make an offer for the outstanding shares in Phoenix Prince Gold Mining on the basis of one Globe and Phoenix for every 16 Phoenix Prince shares.

The operating results of the Worldwide Group to date are slightly below forecast.

Stock markets

Now gilts are sold heavily as pound wilts

Some late bargain hunting could not disguise the continuing nervousness of the equity market against a background of growing industrial unrest.

Dealers reported an increasing reluctance by investors to undertake genuine investment buying and small offerings were enough to lower the FT index another 10.8 by 3 pm. It closed 6.2 off at 479.8 as buyers came in but still recorded a ninth consecutive day of falls.

A sudden slump in sterling also depressed equities but made an even more dramatic impact on gilt-edged stocks which were lowered two and three-quarter points at one stage on heavy selling, much of it said to be from abroad. By the end, longer maturities had rallied to losses of £2 while "shorts" shed £1 after being £1.50 down earlier in the session.

For the first time in several days there was talk of a rally in after-hours trading. With the index falling nearly 40 points over the last nine days

306p and Glaxo 8p to 595p also had a hard time. Recently the last named was as high as 665p on hopes of a dividend boosting move.

Against the background of better news on the industrial front BOC held firm at 72 1/2p while the lists for the IMI shares formerly held by ICI were oversubscribed, going against worst market fears.

Another big name in the lime-light was Hoover which dipped no less than 35p to 360p, after profits which were well below market expectations. Reed Group continued to react to this week's statement, shedding another 6p to 140p, while both Rank 4p to 238p and Sun Alliance 20p to 575p lost ground after news of a property deal.

Another result awaited with interest was that from Kwik Save Discount. When it came the shares dipped a full 16p to 240p on a rights issue and 100 per cent scrip. But the main

reason for the reaction was the size of the accompanying dividend increase which was not up to some expectations.

International Combustion went against the trend with a gain of 2p to 96p on news of an increase in dividend.

The fear that industrial action by the miners would disrupt coal supplies unduly, bore heavily on AAB which closed 10p lower at 38p while in the stores sector MFI continued to react from recent strength with a loss of 4p to 95p.

In the financial sector the performance of the gilt market hit the discount houses with Unilever losing 30p to 420p, Gillett Brothers 15p to 215p, Allen Harvey & Ross 30p to 510p and Alexanders 20p to 240p.

The clearing banks held steady with the exception of Midland which shed 3p to 337p, while over in properties Ham-merson 'A' dipped 17p to 533p ahead of figures. Other weak

spots were to be found in Land Securities 6p to 201p and Great Portland which slipped 6p to 280p.

In the mining sector the hope of better diamond prices lifted De Beers Dfd 20p to 282p, while golds £1 or so better included Western Deep Levels at £7.75, Randfontein at £29.25 and West Driefontein where there was an exceptional gain of £2 to £21.37.

ORs were a sector to gain particular benefit from the late firmness, with BP 6p better at 876p and Shell four points ahead at 552p. S Osborn 1p to 80p, Weir Group 6p to 120p and Spink 3p to 293p were courteous to lose ground in the absence of further takeover news. Both Diploma Investments 10p to 16p and Pork Farms 12p to 343p were two shares to go lower as recent speculative support dried up, while another weak spot was to be found in J Woodhead which slipped 12p to 226p on persistent selling.

But Wight Construction was one issue to go the other way with speculative demand sparking a rise of 6p to 96p.

Two exporters well off were BTR which shed 13p to 253p, and Arthur Bell, the Scotch whisky group, which finished 6p lower at 336p. Pressure on margins shown up by figures lowered Parker Knoll 7 1/2p to 105p, while Levers Optical's loss had the shares 10p off at 22p.

After news that some directors had sold up to half a million shares, Dixons Photographic went further to 173p. But a new seller appeared and the shares dipped to 163p, off 6p on balance. The second line was thought to be around 150,000 shares and to come from an institution.

Figures of Pritchard Services left the shares trading lower at 29p and Arrow 'A' were at an unchanged 80p, after announcing an export-led rise in profits. Gloves shaded easier at 82p.

In anticipation of a rally to come, a firmer trend developed in after hours trading based mainly on a "bargain hunting" mood.

The industrial leaders gained a few pence and building shares also started to pick up. Hoggsons Brewery edged higher after figures, but Moss Engineering went lower as dealers were not too happy with figures. Kwik Save stayed at its depressed level of earlier in the session after the rights but both banks and discounts made up some lost ground, especially Union which added a few pence.

Equity turnover on November 2 was £104.15m (19,682 bargains). Active stocks, yesterday, according to Exchange Tables, were ICI, Glaxo, Dixons, Imperial Group, European Ferries, GEC, Acrow, Coral, House of Fraser, Rascal, Daily Mail 'A', Distillers, Pork Farms, Diploma Inv, Consolidated Gold Fields, De Beers, Matchwell, Hoover, Kwik Save and Union Discount.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pav	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Acrow (I)	73.52 (58.34)	5.29 (4.01)	1.37 (1.25)	7.4	—	(2.26)
Anglo Scot Int (F)	—	0.82 (0.72)	1.59 (1.48)	0.98 (0.88)	4.1	1.6 (1.5)
Ayr (I)	—	0.40 (0.28)	—	1.26 (1.0)	16.12	(13.14)
Brit-Borneo Pt (I)	—	0.47 (0.45)	—	2.28 (2.04)	16.12	(16.08)
Fortnum & M (I)	—	—	—	3.5 (3.5)	29.12	(20.8)
Gieves Gp (I)	15.1 (11.6)	0.65 (0.52)	—	1.51 (1.2)	16.12	(4)
Gordon Int (I)	—	1.21 (0.1)	—	0.75 (0.75)	16.12	(3.2)
Hoover (I)	141.1 (122.76)	6.62 (12.36)	20.41	5.61 (5.54)	26.5	(12.97)
Int Com (S Int)	—	—	—	9.09 (—)	26.5	12.09 (5.43)
Kwik Save (F)	12.3 (8.40)	0.6 (0.52)	2.3 (2.1)	—	—	4.4 (3.9)
Moss Eng (F)	0.19 (0.24)	0.08 (0.01)	0.02 (0.15)	—	—	4.14 (3.7)
D M Lancashire (F)	0.15 (0.01)	0.15 (0.01)	34.25 (4.46)	—	—	—
Levers (I)	1.1 (0.97)	0.06 (0.03)	1.68 (1.0)	—	—	—
Levens (I)	1.5 (1.3)	0.02 (0.01)	—	1.05 (0.35)	—	1.05 (0.35)
Wm. Low (F)	46.7 (36.7)	1.6 (0.90)	19.45 (7.17)	3.8 (3.4)	5.1	5.4 (4.9)
J. Michael (F)	—	0.09 (0.32)	—	—	—	—
Witchell Cotts (F)	8.0 (6.3)	0.84 (0.76)	7.65 (8.34)	2.18 (2.5)	12/12	3.34 (2.99)
Woolworth (F)	9.7 (7.1)	0.92 (1.0)	3.31 (2.3)	6.1	—	—
Moviet (F)	2.3 (2.2)	0.13 (0.13)	2.33 (1.84)	—	—	—
N Throgmorton (I)	—	0.24 (0.45)	—	0.45 (0.45)	1.5	1.5 (1.5)
Pritchard Ser (I)	—	0.37 (0.77)	—	0.57 (0.43)	12/12	(1.3)
Roberts Adam (F)	3.9 (3.7)	0.25 (0.24)	—	1.50 (1.4)	—	(3.5)
S&P Linked Int (I)	—	—	—	5.64 (5.16)	1/12	(9.9)
Scott Heritable (I)	6.1 (4.8)	0.25 (0.21)	3.93 (3.23)	0.65 (0.58)	16.1	(1.3)
Summit Bldg (F)	0.68 (0.46)	0.15 (0.07)	1.32 (0.45)	—	—	(0.78)
Trust Union (I)	—	0.63 (0.56)	—	1.4 (1.1)	9.12	(2.8)
UBM Group (I)	99.2 (80.2)	1.5 (1.1)	—	1.7 (1.7)	3.1	(4.1)
UK Prop (I)	—	0.26 (0.004)	—	—	—	(NII)
Roberts Adam (F)	2.6 (1.1)	0.26 (0.21)	5.62 (4.88)	1.3 (1.0)	9.12	(1.0)
Wemyss Int (F)	—	0.46 (0.40)	—	6.75 (6.7)	16.1	10.7 (5.8)
Wm. Low (F)	2.7 (3.0)	0.05 (0.16)	—	—	—	(0.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a For nine months. b Loss. c Forecast.

Good news from Pritchard

Record interim figures and indications that profits for this year should top £2m for first time are happy news. Shareholders of Pritchard Services Group.

In the six months to July 3, pre-tax profits of the group which claims to be Britain's best building services organisation involved in everything in office and city cleaning to unity and timber preservation.

tion, increased by 25.7 per cent to a record £572,000. Group sales for the same period went up 10 per cent.

Most companies in this group were able to contribute to these improved profits. But as yet no account has been taken of earnings which are expected to come this year from the group's major role in the £140m contract for the city cleansing programme for the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh.

The boards share the view expressed by the Shareholders Protection Committee, the Stock Exchange and others that cross-holdings are undesirable.

They propose that Phoenix Mining and Finance sell its holding in Globe for cash which

will also restore the former working capital. As these shares represent the Phoenix Mining shareholding interest in the Rhodanian assets, they will be offered to Phoenix Mining shareholders other than the Globe shareholding in Phoenix Mining.

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The boards share the view expressed by the Shareholders Protection Committee, the Stock Exchange and others that cross-holdings are undesirable.

They propose that Phoenix Mining and Finance sell its holding in Globe for cash which

will also restore the former working capital. As these shares represent the Phoenix Mining shareholding interest in the Rhodanian assets, they will be offered to Phoenix Mining shareholders other than the Globe shareholding in Phoenix Mining.

The price is 65p a share and will leave Phoenix with about £300,000 in cash and investments in addition to the Worldwide Group. The 42.7 per cent Globe shareholding in Phoenix will be kept for the time being.

Globe will then make an offer for the outstanding shares in Phoenix Prince Gold Mining on the basis of one Globe and Phoenix for every 16 Phoenix Prince shares.

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Engineer Acrow flies high on back of exports boom

By Alison Mitchell

Exports are making all the running at engineering group Acrow. With the United Kingdom market virtually stagnant in the six months to September 30 last, the group has turned more and more to overseas sales for growth.

In the period, exports rose by a quarter to £41.9m and these are likely to grow even further as the group expands its horizons and markets.

Acrow, the world's largest manufacturer of pre-fabricated bridges, already exports almost its entire United Kingdom production and from this division more than 70 per cent of its cranes are also sent abroad.

Mr William de Vigier, chairman, reports that the group recently agreed to manufacture Acrow products in Brazil and Egypt in joint ventures with national companies. The agreements should open up new markets to more exports from the United Kingdom companies for some time to come.

In the accounting period, total pre-tax profits increased from £4m to £5.3m, on turnover up £15.3m to £73.5m. So pre-tax margins widened by almost half a point to 7.3 per cent.

Turnover fell from £30.2m to £27.8m in the six months to September 30 and Whiteley lost £34,000 compared with a profit last time of £95,000. The loss was after a tax credit of £23,000, against a £72,000 charge. The shares duly fell by 3p to 39p.

Whiteley's share of its Japanese associate's trading loss for the half-year of £15,000 is not included in the figure. The board explains that losses consolidated earlier effectively cancelled the cost of the shareholding and the group has no further liability, contingent or otherwise, in respect of the Japanese investment.



Mr William de Vigier.

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ment on the home market. Capital spending by many companies has been held back for as long as possible so this upward trend is likely to continue as more delayed projects get under way.

The £4.5m container factory being built at Reddish is ahead of schedule and will bring additional capacity to the group in the 1978-79 financial year. At present Acrow is unable to fulfil orders and current production is sold out for the next 12 months.

Looking to the year as a whole, Mr de Vigier anticipates another sales, exports and profits record. If the 30 per cent profit margin continues Acrow should have a pre-tax profit pushing £14m. However, a rising pound could put a brake on a group so dependent on exports.

To celebrate 40 years as a public company, all 6,000 United Kingdom employees, including Mr de Vigier and his fellow directors, were given a bonus 100 "A" shares, at a cost to the group of around £744,000.

L Ryan to get £800,000 from Welsh Agency

The Welsh Development Agency is backing the reconstruction of L. Ryan Holdings by investing £800,000 in the South Wales fuel and plant hire group. It is agreed that 25 per cent of the equity for £492,000 and supplying a medium-term loan of £308,000. This will strengthen the capital base of the company in readiness for its impending emergence from receivership and enable it to open up fresh coal-reclamation sites.

Mr Jack Loveland, executive director of the agency's industry and investment division, said: "Our investment will significantly strengthen a Welsh public company which is one of the few in Britain with any expertise in coal recovery—an activity which represents a valuable indigenous source of energy for the United Kingdom."

B S & W Whiteley interim loss, but outlook better

West Yorkshire-based B. S. & W. Whiteley has had its ups and downs. But in spite of the latest interim loss, it looks as though it is going to go up.

Turnover fell from £30.2m to £27.8m in the six months to September 30 and Whiteley lost £34,000 compared with a profit last time of £95,000. The loss was after a tax credit of £23,000, against a £72,000 charge. The shares duly fell by 3p to 39p.

Whiteley's share of its Japanese associate's trading loss for the half-year of £15,000 is not included in the figure. The board explains that losses consolidated earlier effectively cancelled the cost of the shareholding and the group has no further liability, contingent or otherwise, in respect of the Japanese investment.

Both home and export sales of Whiteley have been below target and the board considered it necessary to declare a "preliminary" of the workforce redundant and to revert from four to three-shift workings.

With these and other economy measures taken, the board believes the group is now moving towards stabilizing its position.

As last time, there is no interim dividend. Shareholders received a final of 0.76p gross for the year to March 31 last.

Whiteley makes and sells electrical insulating precast and extruded precast under the name "Elephantide". Pre-tax profits hit a record £669,000 in 1974-75, but slumped to £17,000 in the following year. In 1976-77, they partly recovered to £280,000.



Property



The Rectory, Demington, near Woodbridge, Suffolk.

In spite of high building costs it is surprising the way in which the market for properties needing total restoration or conversion continues to hold up. Much of the demand arises from the lure of the country cottage, which seems to survive all the ups and downs of the market.

At any rate, buyers for these properties are nearly always to be found, although now there is a keen competition for the total cost of such schemes. With a consequent hardening of buyers' attitudes to the original cost of the buildings.

One such property which seems to have good potential is an old stable block at Lower Wootton, near Frome, Somerset. Possibly a century old, it is built partly of local stone and partly of brick and measures 89ft by 20ft with a loft above and, unusually, a semi-circular turret at one end.

Planning consent has been given for conversion to a dwelling and a good point is that the roof has been repaired, the timbers treated and the necessary gutters and downpipes installed. In general, the building would need little or no conversion to a split-level bungalow with one upper room in the turret.

It stands in a quarter of an acre of uncultivated but well-tended land reached through stone carriage gates. Offers in the region of £14,000 to £15,000 are being asked through Parsons, of Frome.

Offers over £20,000 are being asked for Dikewoods Farmhouse, a village of Ramsdell, near Leighton, Hampshire. About 100 years old, the building has 100 yards and needs complete modernization, but retains such features as exposed beams and brick floors.

Existing accommodation includes two reception rooms, a kitchen with a scullery, two bedrooms and a dressing room, and two flights of stairs. The property stands in about one quarter of an acre of garden and orchard, and a stone well complete with old hand pump. The agent is John Gorman Ralph Fox, Ramsdell.

In the more general market near East Angles, Demington, the Rectory, at Woodbridge, Suffolk, has been put on the market by the 5th and 6th Lord of Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance. It is believed to date from the early eighteenth century and has a grade two listing as a house.

Lure of the country cottage

being of special architectural or historical interest. The mellowed red brick under a tiled roof, it has an unusually good Georgian front and many interior features of its period. Accommodation runs to three reception rooms, a breakfast room, six bedrooms, and various attic rooms.

Formal gardens of just under four acres surround the house. Beyond which are about 11½ acres of wooded parkland. Due to come to auction next month, the property is expected to make about £30,000. A further acre of just under five acres of level arable land is also available.

The agents are Strutt and Parker, of Ipswich, and Aroon and Calver, of Woodbridge. A good deal older is The Church House, at Wickham, in West Suffolk, about seven miles from Bury St Edmunds. Also with a grade two listing, it is believed to date from the fourteenth or fifteenth century and is of oak framed and plastered construction under a tiled roof.

Among its interesting features are some massive curved and decorated original timbers, and on one side there is a projecting first story supported on carved brackets. The drawing room has an open fireplace with a brass mirror and hood. In addition, there are a dining room, study, two bedrooms and bathroom suites, and a third bedroom. All the main rooms face south and the garden itself, which runs to about one and a half acres, is to the south of the house.

The price is £45,000 and the agent is J. D. Wood, of London. A little closer to London is Leccles Lodge, at Marlow, in Bucks. It is a good family house dating from the late Georgian times and is located on the edge of the village. It has three reception rooms and six bedrooms, and the house is being sold with about 1½ acres of garden and two docks. A price of £57,500 is expected and the sale is expected to take place in the London and Chelmsford offices of Savills.

At the same price is a property at East Angles, Demington, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, which is also notable for its architectural features. It is believed to have been built in the later part of the eighteenth century and is of brick construction with a tiled roof. The property includes two reception rooms and four bedrooms. The garden is about one and a half acres and has a grade two listing as a house.

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for three or four cars. The agents are Whiteheads, of Popham. A little older is Lyday Close, at Oakridge Lynch, near Cirencester, which is thought to date from the 14th or 15th century when, apparently, it was known as Gurners Farm.

It is built of Cotswold stone with a roof which is mostly tiled, but partly in stone. It has been extensively restored in recent years and has a large reception hall, three main reception rooms, including a gallery drawing room, and four bedrooms. There is a range of Cotswold outbuildings, and also planning consent for a separate house.

Extensive gardens of about two acres surround the house, and there is a further 1½ acres of woodland and pasture. Offers in the region of £100,000 are being asked through Lest and Lee, of Chelmsford. Another good property in the Cotswold area is one called Layham, on the fringe of Sturford, Oxfordshire. The house is a good example of a Tudor house, which flows around two sides of the house and has a total length of some three-quarters of a mile within the grounds.

Also built of Cotswold stone, it has a stone tiled roof and a Georgian front with a large central doorway. An inscription over the front door suggests that the original house was built in 1558, but it was extended at both ends in later years. When, no doubt, the Georgian touches were added. There are two main reception rooms, a study, a playroom and some six bedrooms. The garden has an open fireplace with a brass mirror and hood.

In addition, there are a dining room, study, two bedrooms and bathroom suites, and a third bedroom. All the main rooms face south and the garden itself, which runs to about one and a half acres, is to the south of the house. The price is £45,000 and the agent is J. D. Wood, of London.

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Properties under £25,000

MESSINGER MAY SAVERSTOCK

ENTON, 2 MILES GODALMING, SURREY

PRETTY STONE BUILT S/D COUNTRY COTTAGE 1 mile station, close Golf Club mid green belt. Barn End Cottage, 2 beds., 1 recep., hall, kit., bath, garage, small garden.

Auction 23rd November range £15-£20,000

Messinger May Saverstock, 95 High Street, Godalming, Surrey. Tel. (0486) 7222.

NORTH WALES COAST Tal-y-Bont

2 miles Bangor, a 3-bed roomed semi-detached house (built 1972), integral garage, lawn, garden. Full central heating, fully furnished, including fitted carpets, modern washing machine, fitted kitchen etc.

1000 sq. ft. Ideal holiday home. Student sample available. A sale at £12,500. Phone Nottingham 624485

DEVON COTTAGE

4 bedroom, listed detached cottage in quiet corner of Bideford, Devon. Full central heating, fully furnished, including fitted carpets, modern washing machine, fitted kitchen etc.

£13,500. Tel. Exeter 3205, even.

SEVENOAKS, KENT

Large, modern first-floor flat, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full central heating, fully furnished, including fitted carpets, modern washing machine, fitted kitchen etc.

£19,750 for 10 year lease with option to purchase. Tel. 0753 8888

RUFUS RAVEN & CO.

SALE ROOM

AUKTIONSHAUS PETER INEICHEN ZÜRICH

CH-8002 Zurich, C. F. Meyer-Strasse 14, Phone 01/201 30 17-18, P.O. Box 8227 Zurich

AUCTION SALE XXII WATCHES AND CLOCKS

Monday, 21 November, 1977 from 9.15 a.m.

AUCTION SALE XXIII ANTIQUE DOLLS AND TOYS

Saturday, 3 December, 1977 from 9 a.m.

VIEWING AND AUCTIONS

C. F. Meyer-Strasse 14, CH-8002 Zurich, Phone 01/201 30 17-18, P.O. Box 8227 Zurich

AUKTIONSHAUS PETER INEICHEN ZÜRICH

CH-8002 Zurich, C. F. Meyer-Strasse 14, Phone 01/201 30 17-18, P.O. Box 8227 Zurich

Appointments Vacant also on page 17

Journalist

required by Times Educational Supplement Scotland. Preferably a graduate with experience in news and features. Apply to the Editor, TES Scotland, 56 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT

Invites applications for the following posts: One Chief Architect \$15,000 to \$17,000. Two Senior Quantity Surveyors \$13,500 to \$16,500. Two Quantity Surveyors \$12,000 to \$14,500. Three Civil Engineers \$13,000 to \$14,500. One Assistant Engineer (Water) \$9,550 to \$12,800. One Chief Engineer \$18,000 to \$20,000. One Engineer (Ashore Wellfield) \$13,500 to \$15,500. One Engineer (Planning) \$13,500 to \$15,500. One Training Specialist (Engineering) \$12,500 to \$15,900. One Instructor (Water and Sewerage) \$10,960 to \$14,000.

Three-year contracts. Gratuity 15 per cent of salary on termination. Fees paid to the Bahamas and return on completion. NO INCOME TAX.

Application forms, job descriptions and further details from: Bahamas High Commission, 39 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG. Telephone 01-930 6967.

INTERVIEWS EARLY DECEMBER

Retail Sales Management

£5,000-£6,000. Good design sells itself but we need an enthusiastic self-starter to prove it! We are looking for a sales manager for our group of small, prestige gift and souvenir shops based in The Design Centre, Haymarket, and other important tourist sites in London. New shops are planned for the future and this will be a key post in the development of our marketing services manager for all sales and shop operations including staff management, display and promotional activities and the achievement of target sales figures. We are looking for a man or woman with an entrepreneurial flair, combined with a commercial outlook and experience in a similar post in a retailing organisation. We offer a starting salary in the range £5,000-£6,000, 5 weeks' holiday, staff discount of 50 per cent, and the satisfaction of selling a wide variety of well-designed gift goods. For further details and an application form please ring or write to: Jan Ellis, Design Centre, The Design Centre, 28 Haymarket London SW1 4SU. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

DESIGN CENTRE SHOPS

EXPANDING COMPANY WITH OFFICES IN MAYFAIR IS LOOKING FOR A SALESMAN

with experience in sales and marketing of (steel, especially flat hot rolled products. Applicants (male or female) should have a working knowledge of one or more European languages in addition to English. Knowledge of Greek desirable, but not essential. Please address your applications giving full particulars including salary required, to: Box 2775 J, The Times

EDITORS £5,000-£6,000

Octopus Books requires two General Editors who must have experience of working on integrated text and picture publications on a wide range of general interest subjects. Education to degree standard is preferred. Both positions enjoy existing generous benefits and carry opportunities for promotion as our company continues to grow. One vacancy is for a Senior Editor able to control a small programme of books from start to finish. Salary around £5,000. The second vacancy is for an Editor to work as part of an existing team. Salary around £5,000. Please apply in writing to: Ronald Sener, Publishing Director, Octopus Books Ltd., 59 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 3DA.

RECRUITING OFFICER

Taylor Woodrow International Limited has the above opportunity for a man or woman to join its international personnel team based in London. The successful candidate will have wide experience of recruiting staff for a wide range of general interest subjects. Education to degree standard is preferred. Both positions enjoy existing generous benefits and carry opportunities for promotion as our company continues to grow. One vacancy is for a Senior Editor able to control a small programme of books from start to finish. Salary around £5,000. The second vacancy is for an Editor to work as part of an existing team. Salary around £5,000. Please apply in writing to: Ronald Sener, Publishing Director, Octopus Books Ltd., 59 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 3DA.

TAYLOR WOODROW INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Western Avenue, London W5 1EU.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN PLANT BREEDING

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER/HIGHER SCIENTIFIC OFFICER. A Scientific Officer is required to carry out the under-mentioned duties for the Scottish Plant Breeding Station:

- To advise research scientists on the appropriate experimental design for their projects.
- To advise on, and assist with, statistical analysis.
- To assist with the interpretation of results from statistical analyses.
- To modify existing computer programmes and to write new programmes when required.

QUALIFICATIONS: A Pass degree or HNC with experience, or an Honours degree in statistics or mathematics, or in a biological science with a post-graduate statistical qualification. At least five years relevant post-graduate experience is required for appointment at HSO.

SALARY: Depending on qualifications and experience. Scientific Officer in the range £2,582 to £4,632 per annum. Higher Scientific Officer in the range £3,745 to £4,976 per annum. Both salary ranges include current pay supplements. The post is superannuable.

Application forms from the Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF to be returned not later than 3rd December, 1977.

GENERAL VACANCIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. To help with the financial work of the Scottish Plant Breeding Station. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT SEKS PARTNER WITH OWN CLIENTS

INTERESTING GOOD JUDGMENT SENSE OF HUMOUR Box 2787 J, The Times.

GENERAL VACANCIES

EFFICIENT EDITOR required London. Editing experience plus knowledge of news and current affairs. Apply to: The Times, Box 2787 J, The Times.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALMAGATE Legal Staff, the specialist legal consultants to the profession, are seeking for 2017/18 a number of legal secretaries to work on a permanent basis. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS in Central London have vacancies for 2017/18 a number of legal secretaries to work on a permanent basis. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Cambridge DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for posts at the Research Officer level to join a project headed by Professor J. H. D. Scott. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

Applications are invited for posts at the Research Officer level to join a project headed by Professor J. H. D. Scott. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UEA Norwich LECTURER

IN COMPUTING STUDIES commencing as soon as possible in 1978. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

Ahmadu Bello University Nigeria

Applications are invited for the post of PROPOSED SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER in the Department of Applied Economics. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

The Queen's University of Belfast

LECTURESHIP (MEDICAL) IN MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Applications are invited from medical and dental graduates for a Lectureship in Microbiology and Immunology. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

The University of Leeds

DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for the post of SENIOR LECTURER in Organic Chemistry. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

NEW HALL, CAMBRIDGE

New Hall invites applications for a College Lecturer in Organic Chemistry. The successful candidate will be a graduate with experience in bookkeeping, typing, and general office work. Salary £2,582 per annum. Apply to: The Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlands, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RF. Tel: 01-639 8000, ext. 88.

£6,000 plus Appointments

Assistant Executive

£8,715-£9,372 (plus supplement) Deputy Chief Officer Status

The first holder of this post left to become County Treasurer of Somerset in 1975. The present post-holder has just been appointed Deputy Secretary of Cambridgeshire.

Applications are, therefore, invited for this post which provides the only direct support to the Chief Executive. Candidates must have a good command of English and numerical skills. The duties include considerable involvement in major policy matters and in the Council's corporate management processes.

Further particulars and application forms are available from D. G. Fuller, County Secretary, Shire Hall, Warwick. Telephone Warwick (0902) 43431 Ext. 2470.

Closing date: 25th November, 1977.

Warwickshire

ENGINEERS REQUIRED NIGERIA

A fast-growing dynamic corporation in Nigeria engaged in energy engineering and construction require engineers for their permanent staff to assist in the construction of petrochemical complexes, tank farms, electric transmission projects, etc. throughout Nigeria.

Mechanical Engineers: BSc and Chartered Engineers preferred, with experience of West Africa or developing countries.

Electrical Engineers: BSc and Chartered Engineers with experience in power transmission and petrochemical experience; West African work-history useful.

Civil Engineers: BSc and Chartered Engineers preferred with experience in petrochemical and energy projects; West African experience an asset.

Generous salaries, good benefits and a pleasant working environment for creative and hard-working responsible engineers. Please reply with full information, in confidence, to: MULTIRETS LTD, 1 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AL.

Manager Photographer P.R.O.

Yes, there is one! - required by premier producers of colour films and AV material (50 staff). Position could lead to top management in expanding business. Some 35/40, proficient - even outstanding - in many applications of photography (technical cameras - normally used). Must be able to plan details of his/her own work, employ judgment in the field, estimate sales potential of new subjects, stimulate demand and bring new ideas to the firm.

Present range (10,000 subjects) includes cathedrals (especially interiors), town and countryside in Britain, country houses, museums and galleries, European travel. There is now a strong bias towards educational subjects; history, geography, industrial archaeology.

Driving and good colour vision essential. Good degree an advantage. Send curriculum vitae and apply in writing to the Chairman: Woodmansterne Limited, Watford, WD1 8RD

woodmansterne

LONDON Up to £7,700

Personnel Manager

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has a vacancy for a Personnel Manager (man or woman) who will have responsibility for the recruitment and administration of staff now approaching 300 in three locations in London EC1 and EC2.

Candidates should, in particular, have experience of job evaluation, salary administration, staff welfare and of pension schemes. An I.P.M. qualification would be an advantage.

The starting salary will be between £7,000 and £7,700 at 1978 rates. Application forms may be obtained from: M. H. Luke, P.O. Box 433, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ. (Telephone: 01-628 7060)

WESSEX REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY REGIONAL NURSING OFFICER

Salary £8,217 rising to £9,045 plus supplements. Due to the retirement of the present holder in March 1978, applications are invited from Registered Nurses with knowledge and wide experience of Health Service management.

The present incumbent, Miss F. M. Gundry, would be pleased to discuss the appointment with prospective candidates either by telephone (0862 63511 ext. 335) or by personal interview.

Application forms and further details are available from the Regional Personnel Officer, telephone as above - ext. 358/471. Closing date 28th November, 1977.

£6,000 plus Appointments also on page 26

Country property

TONGUE MANSE

None built detached house of character standing in 10 acres and containing on three acres three public buildings, eight bedrooms, kitchen, utility, bathroom, bedrooms, etc. Extensive outbuildings. Value £50,000. View to the Rev. Alfred Jones, 10, The Rectory, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Tel: 01473 20526

VON, BERKS BORDER 5 MILES WANTAGE 20 MILES M4

Large rural detached house with 10 acres of land, including 5 acres of woodland. The house is built of local stone and has a tiled roof. It has a large reception hall, three main reception rooms, including a gallery drawing room, and four bedrooms. There is a range of Cotswold outbuildings, and also planning consent for a separate house.

TRKUBRIGHTSHIRE

Dunstable 12 miles: Castle Douglas 5 miles

CLANLAW RECTORY, Clonliffe, Co. Wick

Large detached house of character standing in 10 acres and containing on three acres three public buildings, eight bedrooms, kitchen, utility, bathroom, bedrooms, etc. Extensive outbuildings. Value £50,000. View to the Rev. Alfred Jones, 10, The Rectory, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Tel: 01473 20526

BRINGTON, SUSSEX

Large detached house of character standing in 10 acres and containing on three acres three public buildings, eight bedrooms, kitchen, utility, bathroom, bedrooms, etc. Extensive outbuildings. Value £50,000. View to the Rev. Alfred Jones, 10, The Rectory, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Tel: 01473 20526

Country property

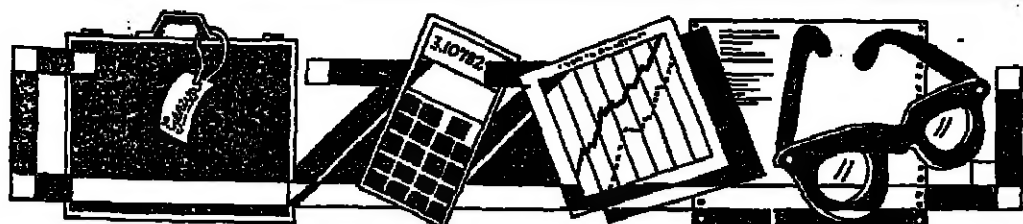
EAST SUSSEX

Charming well-maintained detached house of character, built of local stone and has a tiled roof. It has a large reception hall, three main reception rooms, including a gallery drawing room, and four bedrooms. There is a range of Cotswold outbuildings, and also planning consent for a separate house.

BRAXTON WATSON & CO.

Northam, Sussex (07974) 2366

NOTTINGHAM



£6,000 plus appointments



HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

SALARY

Le20,000 per annum (consolidated).

AGE

Not less than 35 years.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant must be in possession of a valid Helicopter Maintenance Engineer's Licence with at least categories A, B, C, and X on the Bolkow type (German), and the Hughes 500 type (Swedish) helicopters.

Must have had not less than 5 years' post-qualification experience on helicopters, particularly the Bolkow.

DUTIES

The Engineer will be responsible to the Ministry of Defence Sierra Leone for

(i) Setting up of an approved maintenance base with required stocks of both bonded and quarantine spares for the maintenance and operation of both types of helicopters.

(ii) Advising the Ministry on the general operation / replacement of major components of these helicopters.

(iii) Proper supervision of other Staff engaged in helicopter maintenance.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Appointment on contract for one tour of service in the first instance but renewable. Duration of tour 18-24 months. Vacation leave of 30 days per annum. Contract gratuity of 15% of basic salary payable at the satisfactory completion of a tour of service. Other conditions of service will be in accordance with those applicable to the Sierra Leone Government Service.

Application forms are obtainable from the Secretary, Public Service Commission, Tower Hill, Freetown or from any District Office in the Provinces, or from the Sierra Leone High Commission, 33 Portland Place, London, W.1, or from the Sierra Leone Embassy, Sobiesky Pereoluk No. 5A Moscow, U.S.S.R. or from the Sierra Leone Embassy, Unterstrasse 88 Bad Godesberg, West Germany. Completed application forms should reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission not later than 10th November, 1977.

MIDDLE EAST

An aggressive company in the Middle East specializing in the sales of Electrical, Mechanical, Building Materials and Hospital Supplies have the following openings:

1. GENERAL SALES MANAGER

Candidate will need to be a good planner, organizer, and of sound commercial knowledge. Duties will include Directing, Monitoring, and controlling the mechanical sales engineers, maintaining minimum level stocks and placing orders. Preparing and meeting sales forecasts, and maintaining a reliable reporting system. Promoting the sales of products and establishing good personal and company relationships with the clients. Applicant is envisaged to be about 35-45 years old with special sales training. A detailed CV will be necessary to assess the capabilities. Remuneration will include a salary of £10,000 plus furnished accommodation, car, one month holidays, air tickets and other fringe benefits.

2. ELECTRICAL TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES proficient in at least two of the following fields:

- Wires & Cables, Electrical Accessories.
- Systems, fire, Burglar, Nurse Call, Sound and Paging.
- Switchgear and Motor Control.

3. APPLIED BUILDING MATERIALS SALES REPRESENTATIVES proficient in the sales of at least two of the following:

- Roofing Materials, Insulating and Water-proofing.
- False Ceiling & Lighting Systems.
- Flooring, P.V.C., Timber, etc.
- Expansion joints, Girders, concrete admixture, etc.

The duties of the representatives will include meeting consultants and obtaining orders from the contractors and retailers.

Remuneration will allow for a salary of about £7,500, furnished accommodation, car, one month's vacation, air tickets, and possible other fringe benefits for applicants of outstanding capabilities.

All replies in confidence to Mr. Ghassien, 42 Bedford Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 7TF.

Economists

Standards of Living & Income Distribution

The Department of Health and Social Security has a vacancy for an Economic Adviser in London.

Applications are invited from Economists (aged at least 27) with good qualifications in methods of quantitative analysis for a post providing advice on the effects of government policies on comparative standards of living. Applicants should be capable of developing new analytical techniques.

The Economic Advisers' Office is responsible for advising Ministers and senior officials on the economic implications of policies over the whole field of Health and Personal Social Services and Social Security expenditure.

The appointment will initially be a temporary one of between two and five years. Starting salary will be in the range £8,867-£9,457 (according to age, qualifications, and experience).

For an application form (to be returned by 25 November, 1977) phone or write to: Mrs. C. Bedwell, DHSS, Hybridge House, 1 Adam Street, London WC2N 6AB (Tel. 01-217 4722).

Company in the Steel sector with modern offices in Mayfair is looking for a

QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

with knowledge of languages, Greek desirable but not essential. Applicants are requested to send full particulars including salary required.

Box No. 2776 J, The Times.

POST OFFICE ENGINEERING UNION

GENERAL TREASURER (DESIGNATE)

The post of General Treasurer to the Post Office Engineering Union will become vacant in 1978. The Union invites applications for the post of General Treasurer (Designate). Candidates must be able to demonstrate a record of service to the Trade Union movement. Applications will be treated in confidence.

The salary in 1977 terms is £8,925-£9,100 per annum. There is a Contributory Superannuation Scheme in operation with a normal retirement age of 60.

Application forms together with further information about the post can be obtained by written request and should be returned not later than the 1st December 1977, addressed to the General Secretary, Post Office Engineering Union, Greystoke House, 150 Brunswick Road, Ealing, W5 1AW.

SECURITIES ANALYST CARIBBEAN AREA—TAX-FREE

A person with chartered accountant or similar accounting experience, able to analyze securities and investments, and with at least five years' experience required. Either part- or full-time—would particularly suit someone within age range 50-65. Salary would be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please send curriculum vitae including details of work and experience and salary presently earned and expected, to:

BOX 2775 J, THE TIMES

MANAGING DIRECTOR

ASSOCIATED BOOK PUBLISHERS (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED

A Managing Director is required for this major company, which forms part of the well-known International Associated Book Publishers Group.

The Company is based in Sydney with branches in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth, and has overall responsibility for the New Zealand operation. Some 250 staff are employed, and the Company is engaged in the publishing of legal, academic, school, general and children's books. It is responsible for the marketing within the area of the whole ABP list, and also handles a number of agencies on behalf of other publishers.

Candidates will be between 37 and 50, which is the upper limit, and will be thoroughly experienced publishers, preferably but not essentially of books. They will have demonstrably successful records in general management particularly in the fields of administration and finance; and will be, or have been, responsible for significant profit-centres during their careers. A successful well-balanced personality is clearly necessary for this extremely important and demanding role: while experience in Australia and a commitment to the country are equally essential.

The salary envisaged is in the region of \$A 38,000 to \$A 40,000 p.a., with a number of additional benefits.

Applicants based in Australia, New Zealand and the Far East should apply to Box 393, P.O. Milsom Point, Sydney 2061, Australia, and will be handled confidentially by an international consulting firm.

Those based elsewhere in the world, including the U.K., should please get in touch with Roger Stacey, Astron Appointments Limited, 20-24 Uxbridge Street, London W8 7TA. Telephone London 229 9171 or 6423.

Royal Naval Officer

Required for a contract appointment for 3 years with the possibility of an extension as FLOTILLA WEAPONS ELECTRICAL OFFICER, ROYAL BRunei MALAY REGIMENT.

An excellent opportunity for a recently retired RN Officer or one who is due to retire shortly. You should be under 45 and preferably have a degree in Electrical Engineering and have completed the rank of Command of WE Specialisation to include the operation and maintenance of modern weapons systems including surface to surface missiles, military radio and radar equipment.

The Flotilla is a small well equipped unit and will be commissioning new vessels shortly. In view of its size the WE Officer will be expected to play an active role in ensuring that all equipment is maintained in a state of readiness. There will be some sea-going commitment.

SALARY IN EXCESS OF £10,000 A YEAR PLUS GRATUITY OF 25% BOTH TAX FREE. OTHER BENEFITS INCLUDE FREE HOUSING, UNIFORMS, ELECTRICITY, WATER AND TELEPHONE, FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL, INTEREST FREE CAR LOAN, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES ETC.

Apply with CV marked Staff in Confidence to Head of Recruitment

Crown Agents

The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations, Appointments Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD.

TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

NIGERIA

Financial Controller

An experienced financial controller is required for a major Nigerian corporation engaged in energy engineering and construction. The applicant must be a Chartered Accountant and/or Management Accountant with solid experience at high levels of responsibility and with a good history of work in the construction industry. Experience in developing countries is an asset. The controller will be responsible for a trained staff at the Lagos headquarters. Good salary and benefits within a pleasant working environment. This post requires a dynamic professional.

Transport Manager

An experienced transport manager is required for a major Nigerian energy engineering corporation with extensive operations throughout the country of Nigeria. The applicant should have held a similar position before and have had some experience in developing countries. The position requires managing a large operating fleet of vehicles and machinery and organizing an effective system for their efficient utilization and maintenance. There are provisions for a good salary and benefit plan.

Please reply with full information on experience, stating current salary to: MULTITREES LTD, 1 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AJ.

The Hongkong Electric Group

PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

WITH ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL SERVICES LIMITED

The consulting and contracting subsidiary of the Hongkong Electric Group of Companies requires qualified project engineering personnel to work on one of the biggest transmission projects in the Middle East.

This multi-million U.S. dollar contract, scheduled to be completed in two years' time, will involve project works for the transmission system in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Immediate requirement is for:

ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER (Electrical)

To assist Project Manager to act for a consortium consisting of two major contractors/suppliers to negotiate with clients. Consulting Engineer and Local Authority on engineering matters. He is required to co-ordinate various contractors on programming handling over sites or parts of the sites, monitoring progress and completion of all installations. The project involves supply and erection of 132KV and 23KV switchgear and transformers underground of filled cable, transmission lines and auxiliary building works for the switching station and substations. Applicants should preferably be Chartered Electrical Engineers with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the above mentioned fields. This appointment is of bachelor status with salary of \$35,000 to \$40,000 per annum plus 10% bonus to be paid at the end of the contract period. Benefits include free accommodation and meals, one month's home leave every six working months with passages paid for, medical benefits and transport provided.

If you are confident of meeting our requirements, and interested in gaining valuable project experience, please write or telephone immediately for application forms and further details from:

The Administrative Officer,
HONGKONG ELECTRIC HOLDINGS LIMITED,
Borneo House, 85-87 Mark Lane,
London EC3R 7DU. Telephone (01) 481 1373.

Deputy Controller of Small Business Unit

Salary up to £6,600 pa

Welsh Development Agency

The Agency is seeking a Deputy Controller for its Small Business Unit. The Unit makes loans and provides advisory services to small businesses throughout Wales.

The successful candidate would be responsible, subject to the guidance of the Controller, for the direction of some twenty-five staff operating at Branch Offices throughout the Principality.

He or she would be required, from time to time, to prepare reports on the progress of the Unit's work and on the problems of clients, whether of a general nature or particular, and to recommend solutions to such problems.

In addition, he or she would assist the scrutiny of proposals for loans submitted to the Branch Offices and would co-ordinate the provision of

training facilities.

Applicants should be familiar with the needs of small businesses. A knowledge of urban and rural Welsh industry and a good background of business management, preferably with a professional qualification will be required.

Salary will be in the range £5,100 to £6,600 pa, together with generous car and leave allocations.

Please write or telephone for an application form, to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

Personnel Department (Ref 157L),
Welsh Development Agency,
Treforest Industrial Estate,
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 5UT.
Tel: Treforest (044 385) 2666, Ext. 262.

Ministry of Defence (Navy Dept.)

Naval Historian

(£6250-£7620)

... to provide historical information on matters of policy and operations for the use of the Naval Staff and Commands, and to write Naval Staff Histories. The successful candidate will be appointed to the Naval Historical Branch in London. Candidate should normally be at least 35, and must have a knowledge of Naval Staff procedure and Naval operational techniques. They must also have the ability to write these large quantities of documents and to write lucidly.

Evidence of published material and previous commissioned service in the Royal Navy advantageous. Salary, starting at £6250, rises to £7620. Non-contributory pension scheme. For full details and an application form (to be returned by 23 November, 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Almonck Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (02561) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/9639.

PENSION SALES MANAGER

We are proposing to expand our pension sales substantially and are looking for the right man or woman to develop and lead our pension sales force.

He or she will currently have extensive experience of negotiating pension schemes and of the management of pension sales people. The right person may be holding a second in command position now and looking for an opportunity to move to the top.

This senior post will carry a substantial salary together with performance related bonus. A car and usual fringe benefits will be part of the package. Anyone currently earning less than £7,000 p.a. is unlikely to have had the relevant experience. The position will be based on London.

Please write, in the first instance, giving age and brief details of your career to:

W.G. Collins, Group Manager,
Sun Life Assurance Company
of Canada,
2, 3 & 4, Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5BH.

appointment of

Director Dental Unit

The Council invites applications for the post of DIRECTOR of a new Dental Unit to come into being in 1978. The first choice for the location of the new Unit is Bristol but other locations are not excluded. The research programme of the new unit will be a matter for discussion between the new director and the Council, having regard to the particular interests of the candidate selected.

Candidates should be persons of high scientific standing - preferably, but not necessarily, with a dental qualification - and proven ability in managing a research team. The salary will be within the range for the Council's Special Appointments Grade, which is equivalent to the universities' professorial range. Further information about the appointment, the present unit, the Council's policy for future work in this field, and the form in which applications should be submitted, may be obtained from Miss N S Jones, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL.

MRC
Medical Research Council

The final date for the receipt of applications is Friday, 23 December 1977.

SALES-COPY MACHINES

MALE/FEMALE. Experienced copy machine salesman to sell the MINOLTA SAYIN SAXON ROYAL OCE MITA COPIERS in the eastern USA. Compensation \$50,000 per year and up. All travel and USA accommodation paid. Send resume to:

Edward Taylor,
GREAT WESTERN CORPORATION,
PO Box 92, Hooksett, New Hampshire, USA 03106.
Or call area code 603 829466, call collect.

Appointments Vacant also on page 25

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University College Cardiff

Applications are invited for the post of

TUTORIAL FELLOW

in the

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

The Fellow will carry out the duties of undertaking research in law and of carrying out a research project. The appointing authority will be the University of Cardiff. The Fellow will be expected to publish research papers in law and to contribute to the work of the Department.

Applications (2 copies) giving a brief curriculum vitae and two references, should be sent to the University of Cardiff, School of Law, Cardiff CF1 1TL, from whom the closing date will be obtained. Closing date 21st November 1977. Please quote reference 15077. Please quote

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Middle East Appointments

BENDIX-SIYANCO A JOINT VENTURE

MALE REGISTERED NURSES SAUDI ARABIA

Bendix-Siyanco operates a small company Hospital in Riyadh and has need of British SRNs.

Salary plus commission bonus
accommodation
free
education
vacations and home leave
year contract
other benefits

Interested SRNs should reply to:

MEDICAL EMPLOYMENT

BENDIX-SIYANCO

Employment Office

P.O. Box 3453

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

BENDIX-SIYANCO A JOINT VENTURE

DENTAL POSITIONS SAUDI ARABIA

- DENTIST
- DENTAL TECHNICIAN
- ORAL HYGIENIST
- DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dental position is family authorized assignment. Technician, Hygienist, and Assistant positions are single status (male) with bachelor housing provided. Excellent salaries, plus:

- COMPLETION BONUS
- SUBSIDISED MEALS
- MEDICAL/DENTAL CARE
- RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- PAID VACATION TIME
- PAID VACATION TRAVEL

Interested male applicants should send letter with resume to:

DENTAL EMPLOYMENT

BENDIX-SIYANCO

P.O. Box 3453

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

SULTANATE OF OMAN ARMY APPOINTMENTS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Officers of the British Army who have recently retired, or are due to complete full-time service within the next 3 to 4 months, to fill uniformed contract appointments of 3 years duration in the Oman Army in the following categories:

INFANTRY COMPANY OFFICER

(in the rank of Captain) (Ref. No.: 49)

To undertake normal military duties in an Oman Infantry Battalion, and to act as adviser on Unit training and administration. Applicants must be fully fit for field duty, and have served recently at least at Company 2 1/2 level in a British Infantry Battalion. Active service experience, service in an Arab country, a knowledge of spoken Arabic, and a JDSC qualification would all be useful attributes. (Age limit: 35.)

INFANTRY COMPANY COMMANDER

(in the rank of Major) (Ref. No.: 49/C)

To command Companies in a newly re-organised regiment of Jebeli tribesmen. Applicants must be fully fit for field duty, and have had at least 2 years experience with Arab soldiers, be fluent in spoken Arabic and have held a command appointment at Company or equivalent level in a combatant British Army Unit. Previous service in the Oman, particularly in the Dhofar area, would be a distinct advantage. (Age limit: 38.)

STAFF CAPTAIN "Q" (MAINTENANCE)

(Ref. No.: 43/A)

Duties involve formulation of policy on all UET matters, simplification and Arabisation of "Q" accounting procedures, and rationalisation of Inter-Service accounting. Applicants must have held a command unit appointment and have previous service with Arab troops. (Age limit: 48.)

These are unaccompanied appointments (although short family visits to Oman may be possible).

Conditions of service include annual emoluments commensurate with the equivalent of £10,800 (Major) and £9,000 (Captain) at the current rate of exchange (tax free); an end-of-contract gratuity in excess of £5,000; normal Service mess facilities (when at base) with air-conditioned bachelor accommodation and services free of charge; and 60 days home leave annually (usually taken in two periods of 30 days) with air passages paid.

Interviews for these appointments will be held in London in December, and interested applicants are therefore asked to write immediately for further details (and quoting the relevant reference number) to:

Senior Personnel Officer (T/31.1)

AIRWORK SERVICES LIMITED

BOURNEMOUTH (Hurn) AIRPORT

CHURCHILL, DORSET

BB2 6BS

PROJECT SURVEYOR EGYPT

and Hill Overseas Limited require a Surveyor in the team currently being formed to manage a million pound construction project in Egypt. He will work in close liaison with the resident Project Engineer and will have overall responsibility for the surveying functions on the contract.

It is preferable, but not essential, that candidates should have previous overseas experience, a recognised qualification, and be in their mid 30s.

An excellent salary will be offered together with family accommodation and other overseas facilities.

Please apply in writing to:-

J. H. Allman,

Higgs and Hill Overseas Limited,

Crown House, Kingston Road,

New Malden, Surrey.

HIGGS AND HILL

We are open to persons of either sex and this advertisement should be construed accordingly.

D. P. MANAGER

National Bank in

Middle East

To £20,000 p.a. TAX FREE

permanent employment or contract

+ fully furnished flat + car + schooling allowance + other important fringe benefits

OUR CLIENT has investigated the need for computers in a very thorough way, and now plans to phase the introduction of two mainframe computers during the coming 12 months

THEY NEED an experienced computer professional and manager to control systems development and computer operations.

APPLICANTS REQUIRE good knowledge of banking systems and good experience of computer systems development and management. Candidates should also be capable of adapting to unfamiliar surroundings and have the ability to motivate staff.

Please Telephone or Send a CV Without Delay

ORSC GROUP LIMITED

Crown House, Malden, Surrey.

Telephone 01-840 8311

adcasting

It is hardly surprising that Liver Bird Sandra's husband-to-be is considering emigrating to Africa after the wedding. Even the Great Ape would be easier to live with than his future mother-in-law.

In competition, the Money Programme reflects men's fascination with success. Sir James Goldsmith explains how.

Tonight's Horizon repeat is Christopher Riley's sensitive account of one childless couple's attempt to overcome infertility.—I.R.R.

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TEACHER

Do you have a sense of adventure? Will, self-motivated, primary school in Port Sudan requires teacher, remuneration limited but good, and benefits.

Interested please phone Mrs Hughes, 01-488 5775/6.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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ALFETTA 1.8 G.T.

P Registration. Dark blue. 1200 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2200 cc. 2400 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

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